Stourbridge
CHRONICLE
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PATIENT SAFETY IS RATED 'POOR'

Report by Richard Guttridge

MENTAL health services across Dudley and Walsall must improve, the health watchdog has ruled following an inspection.

The Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust has been rated as 'requiring improvement' overall following a detailed assessment of the three hospitals it runs in the Black Country.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) found in its review that patient safety was of a 'poor standard' and said care plans were not always 'holistic, person centred or recovery focused'.

The regulator said the safety of some staff and patients was 'compromised' as there were not alarm systems in place in all areas.

The Beeches Day Hospital in Walsall did not have an operational alarm system at all at the time of inspection, it was said.

Inspectors also reported 'inconsistencies' in informal patients being able to leave wards, as is their right.

As part of their routine programme of inspections the CQC visited trust premises in early February to look at services.

Areas requiring improvement included records management, supervision, appraisals and training compliance and staff acting in accordance with the Mental Health Act Code of Practice.

The trust employs more than 1,000 people across 29 sites and runs three main units in the two boroughs – Bushey Fields Hospital in Dudley, Bloxwich Hospital and Dorothy Pattison Hospital in Walsall.

Caring

While the trust was told services must improve overall, the CQC described day-to-day practice as caring, responsive and well-led.

Bosses at the trust have vowed to improve in those areas where they were deemed to be not doing enough.

But the trust also pointed to the many positive aspects of the report, including high morale among staff and a 'clear vision and set of values' which put patient safety as its top priority.

Acting chief executive Mark Axcell said: "We welcome the feedback from the CQC and, although we are disappointed with the final rating, the report highlights many areas of good practice and includes some positive feedback from inspectors, staff, patients, carers and stakeholders.

"Quality and safety remains our top priority and we have already taken action to address some of the points raised.

"We will continue to work with our staff, patients, carers and stakeholders to provide the best mental health services to the communities of Dudley and Walsall."

PENNY WISE CHARITY VENTURE AIMS TO IMPRESS

Lee Clark, who is down to the last 70 from 10,000 entrepreneurs who have entered Sir Richard Branson's business competition

A FITNESS fanatic is hoping he will have the chance to pitch his fundraising business to Sir Richard Branson after beating competition from thousands of rivals all hoping to impress the tycoon.

Lee Clark, from Stourbridge, has entered his company into a competition which sees the winner given the chance to pitch to the Virgin business supremo in a Dragons' Den-style setting.

But with 10,000 other entrepreneurs doing the same, he felt his chances of rubbing shoulders with the billionaire were slim.

However, after receiving hundreds of votes, Lee currently finds himself in the top 70, which looks set to be enough to secure him a place in the next round of the competition.

Lee's business is similar to other online fundraising pages which allow people to donate money to someone taking on a challenge for a good cause but with a major difference.

With Lee's website, Give Penny, well-wishers can give money in stages, such as for each mile covered, ensuring the person taking on the challenge remains determined right until the end. So instead of receiving the whole amount in donations before starting a marathon, the cash would trickle through with each mile that is covered.

The 37-year-old father-of-two was inspired to set up the business over the guilt he said he felt at being forced pull out of a 100-mile cycle ride having received sponsorship.

He said: "It is designed to improve motivation. The idea is if someone is going out to raise money, if they do well it is going to turn into donations."

The overall winner will get £250,000 worth of advertising.

INVESTIGATION

Children wander out of pre-school centre

FOUR young children managed to get out of a pre-school near a busy road after leaving through a gate which supervisors assumed was locked.

Little Legends Pre-School in Rowley Regis is at the centre of an investigation into how the children – around three years old – got out last Wednesday. One was reportedly found in the middle of the busy Dudley Road, although bosses said that had not been confirmed.

Owner Matt Lee closed the pre-school temporarily following the incident and said disciplinary action could follow.

PLANNING

Popular church to get larger building

A CHURCH in the Black Country, which is bucking the trend of dwindling congregations, has revealed plans for a new worship and community centre.

Wall Heath Evangelical Free Church, which is attracting more than 100 worshippers every Sunday, has outgrown its current home in Enville Road.

Leaders now plan to demolish the existing building and replace it with a larger church on the same site, offering a range of facilities, including a 250-seat auditorium.

TRAGEDY

Woman dies as fire rips through house

A WOMAN died when a blaze ripped through her home in Netherton, despite the brave efforts of neighbours to save her.

One woman crawled into the burning house to try to rescue the 67-year-old, named locally as Gillian Howard, after she heard her daughter screaming for help.

Police have now launched an investigation into the fire at the semi-detached house in Spring Road and thanked residents for their 'valiant' attempts to come to the aid of the victim.

Mrs Howard's daughter Nicki was taken to hospital after the fire on Thursday.

● Fatal blaze – see page 9

INSIDE

NEW MAYOR AND MAYORESS

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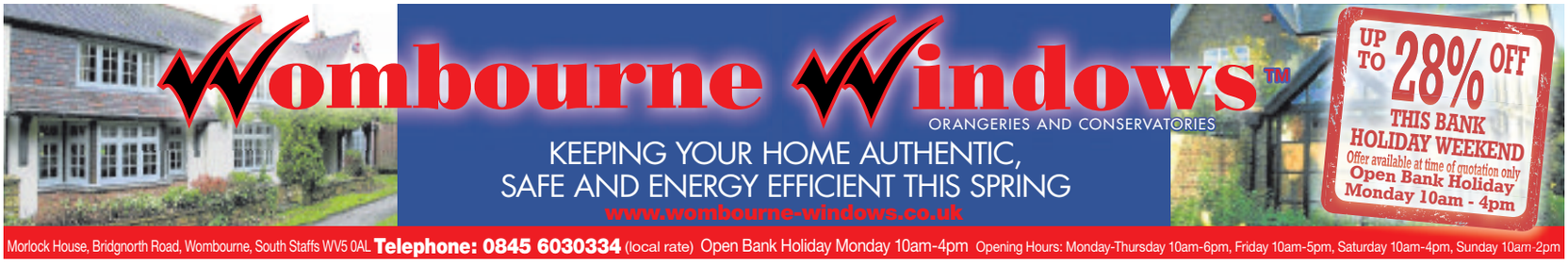

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550 sites identified for 'garden city'

PLANNERS behind a £6 billion 'garden city' for the Black Country say they have identified more than 500 sites for around 45,000 new homes.

The ambitious scheme unveiled earlier this year is create a new city stretching from Wolverhampton to Lye, Dudley Port, West Bromwich and Aldridge.

The 'garden city' would be the largest in the country and it would be built with open spaces and greenery in mind.

Civic and business leaders attended the MIPIM international property exhibition in the south of France to attract investment for the plans.

Chris Handy, chief executive of Accord Group and board member of the Black Country Local Enterprise Project, which is behind the plan, said 'good progress' had been made.

He told board members at the Black Country LEP the scheme had attracted interest with at least eight small and medium-sized enterprises enquiring about it. These included developers and builders wanting to support the project.

He said: "We have had interest from three types of organisations, one being builders, the other being developers and lastly there has been interest from investors. Around 550 sites have been identified in the Black Country. The sites spread across 30 towns."

Mr Handy said out of the 45,000 homes to be built work had already started preparing 13,000 to 14,000 properties. The scheme will cover more than 3,700 acres.

Once funding has been secured work will last for a decade. Old industrial areas – brownfield sites – will be targeted.

The development is being led by the Black Country LEP and the Homes and Communities Agency, with the support of the Department for Communities and Local Government.

MIPIM – Le marché international des professionnels de l'immobilier – was a four-day exhibition, conference and networking event in Cannes.

Boy, 14, sold for sex in red light district

NINE men, including a Black Country bus driver, have been convicted of sex offences against a boy who was pimped out in Birmingham's gay red light district after running away from a children's home.

Jurors at Warwick Crown Court deliberated for more than 30 hours before convicting defendants from the West Midlands, London and Stoke-on-Trent of offences involving the boy.

Pimp Stephen Kelly had befriended the boy at New Street station when he was just 14, and sold him for sex with other men.

He appeared in the dock at Warwick Crown Court with 11 other men who between them were accused of more than 50 sex offences against the boy in 2009 and 2010.

Bus driver Ian Prestleton, 54, of High Haden Road, Cradley Heath, was was found guilty of sexual activity with a child but cleared of rape. Alan Priest, 63, of Mucklow Hill, Halesowen, was convicted of two rapes and one count of sexual activity with a child.

All the convicted men were warned they face custodial sentences when they return to court for sentencing on July 1.

At the end of a three-month trial Kelly, aged 39, of Elm Road, Bourneville, was found guilty of two charges of arranging or facilitating the prostitution of the boy and one of sexual activity in the presence of a child.

Interviewed

Prosecutor Rosina Cottage QC said the victim ran away from a children's home in December 2009, when he was 14, and was missing for 11 days before being found at Kelly's home and returned to care.

During that time he had been pimped by Kelly in the Kent Street area of Birmingham. The boy was interviewed by the police at the time but it was only when the investigation was re-opened that he went into full details. As a result, arrests were made.

A tenth defendant, former Special Constable Ronald Potter, 78 from Pippers Lane, Fillongley, near Coventry, was convicted of two indecent assaults committed against another boy in 2001 and 2002 but cleared of rape and sexual activity with a child. Jurors acquitted two other men.

Hugh leads cyclists on charity ride

Black Country cycling legend Hugh Porter with god-daughter Kate Stride (left) and her sister Helen Jackson

ALMOST 600 cyclists lined up alongside sport legend Hugh Porter MBE for a charity bike ride challenge on Sunday.

Starting at Kingswinford Rugby Club, the Round the Wrekin Sportive invited the 580 participants to cycle one of three routes in aid of Compton Hospice – 23 miles, 60 miles or 100 miles long.

The ride began at 8.30am with routes heading into the Shropshire Hills taking in the Long Mynd, Stiperstones and The Wrekin.

Mr Porter, who took part in the 23-mile route through Bobbington, Claverley and Pattingham, said it had been a 'first class day'.

He said: "It has been fantastic and the weather stayed bright for us despite a few clouds popping in. I only did the short route but more than 100 of us took part in it and moved off in our little groups.

"I wasn't really worried about the time because my god-daughter and her sister came along and I rode with them and some friends and had a laugh. It has been a brilliant atmosphere."

Born in Wolverhampton, Mr Porter won the World Championship title four times and took a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games during his cycling career. He is also honorary patron of Compton Hospice and Halesowen Athletic and Cycling Club.

He added: "It means so much to be able to be part of something like this. We raised a lot of money and it is the start of raising even more."

Countess at anniversary party for Air Ambulance

IT was a royal occasion for Midlands Air Ambulance Charity after The Countess of Wessex attended its 25th anniversary party at Hagley Hall, near Stourbridge.

The charity celebrated the milestone with a garden party where celebrities were among the guests.

In total 350 people attended the event, called 'Air 25', which was held to both celebrate the charity's anniversary and to thank supporters.

The air ambulance has carried out more than 46,000 missions since it started.

Sophie Helen Rhys-Jones, the Countess of Wessex, unveiled a sundial to commemorate the charity in the grounds of Hagley Hall, where the charity officially launched on May 21, 1991.

She has been a strong advocate of the charity and gave a speech where she praised its life-saving work and revealed she herself had been airlifted by an air ambulance to hospital.

Three ambulance helicopters flew in to mark the occasion.

Guests included the charity's ambassadors Lee Pearson CBE and Ryan Cockbill, both Rio 2016 Paralympians, actor John Challis (Boycie from Only Fools And Horses) and England Rugby World Cup winner Neil Back MBE, with broadcaster Michael Collie hosting the party.

Charity fundraisers, volunteers, aircrew, local dignitaries, MPs, and representatives from West Midlands Ambulance Service, Airbus Helicopters and Babcock Mission Critical Services were also in attendance.

Officer gets lift to make arrest

A GOOD Samaritan helped two PCSOs track down a suspected thief in Dudley.

A man was spotted stealing items from Wilkinsons in Dudley town centre at around 12.20pm last Thursday.

PCSOs John Link and Vicky Rogers chased after the suspect but he managed to get away.

Minutes later an Asian man in a five-door black Astra offered PCSO Link a lift to pursue the thief and, with the driver's help, the man was tracked down and arrested.

The 24-year-old man was charged with theft and was bailed to appear at Dudley Magistrates Court on June 3.

Dudley Police posted on social media thanking the driver for his help following the incident.

Man dies after an accident in garage

A 64-year-old man has died following an accident at a garage in Cradley on Thursday afternoon.

Police said the man died at the site in James Scott Road. Emergency services were called at 5pm. The Health and Safety Executive is investigating.

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Woman hit by bus is rushed to hospital

A WOMAN suffered serious head injuries after being hit by a bus in Stourbridge.

The woman, thought to be in her 50s, was taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham after being hit at the junction of Church Street and Parkfield Road at 2.15pm on Friday

An ambulance, a community paramedic, a paramedic area support officer and the Midlands Air Ambulance were all called to the scene. The helicopter landed at a nearby school but the victim was eventually taken to hospital by land ambulance.

Ambulance Service spokeswoman Claire Brown said: "The woman had sustained a serious head injury in the collision. The ambulance crews and the doctor worked to stabilise her condition by administering trauma care at the roadside.

"Once immobilised and stable, the woman was taken by land ambulance on blue lights to Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The doctor travelled in the ambulance to continue treatment en route."

Meanwhile, a man died after a crash involving a Jaguar car and a lorry near the Black Country Living Museum on Friday night.

Ambulance crews were called to the Birmingham New Road at 10.30pm but nothing could be done to save the 52-year-old, who was a passenger in the car. The driver was treated in hospital for head injuries. Both men were from Slough. The driver of the HGV was not injured in the crash.

Man charged with attempted murder

A DUDLEY man has been charged with attempted murder after a man was shot in the Soho Hill area of Birmingham. Rio Sanchez-Williams appeared at Birmingham Magistrates Court on Friday.

It was in connection with disorder on October 30, which left one man dead and another fighting for his life.

The 27-year-old from Orchard Street was charged with attempted murder of Marvin Duffus, 29, who remains critically ill in hospital nearly five months later.

Derek Junior Myers, 25 from Handsworth, suffered a fatal gunshot wound.

Detective Superintendent Mark Payne appealed for anyone with information to call 101.

Music of the Night for theatre group

MUSIC of the Night, an evening of music from Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's musicals featuring West End singers, is being held in Brierley Hill Civic Hall on July 2 in aid of Stourbridge Side by Side Theatre Company.

I had to watch my business being burgled

CCTV shows one of the thieves in the act

A BUSINESSMAN who called police when he saw a break-in at his firm on CCTV said he was left to watch it unfold after being told officers could not attend until the next day.

Paul Smart watched on a screen at his home near Kidderminster as the theft took place at his Brierley Hill photographic firm.

When he called 999 to report the theft he said he was first told to call the non-emergency number 101 and then told police would not go until the next morning. By the time officers did arrive, the crooks were long gone.

Their crime left Doodah Creative, on The Wallows Industrial Estate in Fens Pool Avenue, out of pocket to the tune of £20,000.

Mr Smart, who lives in Chaddesley Corbett, received a call about the burglary and watched it from a screen in his home, 12 miles away. The burglary lasted 50 minutes.

He said he got through to West Mercia Police when he dialled 999 around 2.30am on Friday and was then told to call West Midlands Police on 101.

He said: "I apparently live in the West Mercia area. I gave them the address and they said 'ah, you need to call West Midlands Police on 101'. I called 101 and told them the same story. They said they did not have the manpower to do anything.

"Watching someone take your property away like that, while not being able to do anything, it was awful."

West Midlands Police Chief Inspector Gill Davenport said: "We have been made aware that the victim in this case is disappointed with the police response and we are discussing these issues with him."

Brierley Hill's market hall is put up for sale

BRIERLEY Hill's market hall has been put up for sale – leaving the future of the town's indoor market uncertain.

The hall in High Street could sell for as much as £1 million after the family firm which have owned it for generations announced their intention to sell.

Estate agents appointed to oversee its sale said the hall would be sold with the intention that it continues to operate as a market – but ultimately its future would be decided by the new owner.

The indoor market has operated from the hall since 1930 with around 100 stallholders currently selling a range of products. It was described by estate agents Wilks Head & Eve as an 'attractive key asset' which 'forms a thriving centre to the retail scene in Brierley Hill'.

Iain Dewar, from the firm, said: "The family partnership, who have owned the market for many years, have now decided to offer the opportunity of ownership and running of the market hall into new hands.

Operating

"The market hall will be offered for sale as a going concern with the intention that it should continue operating in a similar style to the way it has traded for many years.

"Privately owned and run markets on the scale of Brierley Hill very rarely become available for sale so this opportunity is expected to appeal to a wide number of different parties."

However, when pressed on whether the future of the market was secure, Thomas Greenwell, from the firm, could not rule out the building being used for another purpose in the future.

"It will be sold on the understanding it continues as a market. But it will be up to the purchaser to do with it what they see fit," he said.

Brierley Hill councillor Rachel Harris said she did not believe the sale of the building would put the market under threat.

She said: "Any property owner that comes in would clearly see how much potential there is there. It's an exciting opportunity for a new owner to come in and refurbish the market and keep it as the central focus in the High Street which it has been for many years."

The market hall, as it looks today, was built in 1930. It has been in the hands of the Shapeero family since the 1920s. In 2008, the building underwent a £150,000 facelift.

First Muslim mayor for Dudley

The first Muslim Mayor of Dudley Councillor Mohammed Hanif and Mayoress Zabeda Khanam

THE new mayor of Dudley is the first Muslim to serve as the borough's first citizen.

Councillor Mohammed Hanif was voted in as mayor at a full council meeting on Thursday night, succeeding Councillor Steve Waltho.

Former deputy mayor Councillor Hanif has been a councillor for nine years for the Lye and Stourbridge North ward.

He has pledged to raise thousands of pounds for charity split between three charities – the Friends of Alfie Johnson, Diabetes UK – Type 2 Together and Dudley CIL. Councillor Hanif said: "It is an enormous honour and a privilege to be Mayor of Dudley and I will serve the residents of Dudley borough to the best of my ability.

"Both the Mayoress and I are looking forward to being ambassadors for the borough and promoting all the good things that happen here as well as the rich Black Country culture full of industrial heritage. I am also very proud to be the first Muslim mayor of the borough and passionate about working with the local diverse communities."

Councillor Hanif's wife, Zabeda Khanam, was named mayoress at the ceremony in the council chamber. Councillor Dave Tyler was sworn in as deputy mayor with his wife Barbara deputy mayoress.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Confirmation of steel job losses

ALL workers at steel firm Bird Stevens in Quarry Bank have been made redundant, it has been confirmed.

The firm crashed in a cash flow crisis. Darren Brookes, an administrator at Milner Boardman, has confirmed around 50 workers have been laid off.

He said: "The staff had been laid off by the directors. Upon our appointment no funds were available to recommence trading and therefore, unfortunately, all the employees were made redundant. We are currently assisting them to make claims to the Redundancy Payments Office."

Claim figures up as more seek work

DUDLEY saw the highest increase in the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance and other unemployment benefits in the Black Country last month.

It rose by 185 to 5,540 – 2.9 per cent of the working population – and followed a rise of 50 in March.

Unemployment for the wider West Midlands was up 8,000 to 154,000 for January to March despite the national total falling 2,000 to 1.69 million. South Staffs' total remained at 710.

Employment in the West Midlands is at a record high of 2.65m.

Concert with a summer sound

A SUMMER concert will be performed by Coseley Male Voice Choir in Sedgley next weekend.

A Summer's Evening of Song will be presented in St Andrew's Church in Bilston Street on Saturday, June 4.

Special guest and compere for the evening is Tipton poet David Bartley.

Tickets for the concert, which starts at 7.30pm, costs £6 on the door, or are available in advance from choir members or from the secretary on 0121 5200739.

Eyes have it for new Startime Variety show

BLACK Country theatre group Startime Variety is staging a musical show in Halesowen later this summer.

Startime In Your Eyes be at Cornbow Hall in Halesowen from July 13 to 16. The show is based on popular TV series Stars In Your Eyes and is produced by Kirsty Aldridge and Darcy Grainger. The cast will be performing songs from the 1950s to 80s.

Tickets cost £10 for adults plus concessions. Call 07901055685 or visit www.startimevariety.co.uk

Solve clues at Himley

A SCAVENGER hunt takes place on Wednesday, June 1, at Himley Hall and Park, near Dudley.

Clue sheets will be handed out on the day. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

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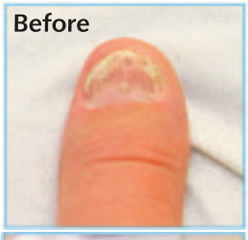

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

SUNBURN on Monday, soaked on Tuesday, sunburn on Wednesday. God, I love Scotland. The weather varied from blazing sunshine to that dense grey drizzle that the Scots call dreich and on to that persistent precipitation that the Scots call pussendoon. The great thing about the rain, as one Scot explained, is that it keeps the midges quiet. It is a great land for counting your blessings.

ONE blessing of being a Scot is to be better informed than those terrible people south of the border. The Scots have a separate legal system which means they all know the identity of the world-famous showbiz couple involved in a three-way tryst whose secrecy is so jealously protected in England by our wonderful Supreme Court. "Oh, you mean that business about ****?" (asterisks for the benefit of the English), said one local when I started the conversation. "We've known about that for ages. To be honest, I'm not in the least interested in what **** has been up to." This makes the fascinating legal point that what interests the public is not necessarily in the public interest, and even if something is in the public interest, it doesn't mean the public is remotely interested.

SCOTLAND over, we headed back down the M6 in blinding spray. Why is it so many motorists refuse to put on their headlights in such conditions? To be fair, some drivers were very busy texting.

AFTER a week without newspapers I pick up the Daily Mail where pundit Peter Oborne suggests our next prime minister could be the Health Secretary, Jeremy Hunt. The silly season starts earlier every year.

MY own view on public interest is that journalists should find out stuff and print it in the newspapers because otherwise the papers would be full of blank pages and nobody would buy them. Go on, call me an intellectual.

DID it not seem strange in the hours following the EgyptAir disaster, that no terrorist organisation claimed responsibility? France is Islamic State's prime target and Egypt its sworn enemy. To make such a high-profile attack on both nations would be a feather in IS's cap. This item may be overtaken by events and it may be that some terror group will produce convincing proof that it did the killing. But we should remember there is one thing far more terrifying than an airliner that falls out of the sky because of terrorism, and that is an airliner that falls out of the sky all by itself.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Lots for children to do at leisure centre

THERE are lots of activities on offer at Dudley Leisure Centre this half term to help keep youngsters entertained.

Children can enjoy 'Bostin Bruce' the fun inflatable aqua pool run, with obstacles and a challenge section with slide from 1.45pm to 2.45pm on Tuesday and Thursday (June 2). Suitable for eight to 15 year olds who can swim 25 metres or more, the activity costs £3 per child and juniors can stay in the pool for a swim for just £1 extra afterwards.

Activezone offers a day of fun including dance mats, Nintendo Wii, crafts, swimming and team games including football, rounders, basketball and badminton for £20 per day. Activezone will run on Tuesday and June 2 from 9am to 4pm for eight to 14-year-olds.

Juniors under the age of 16 can also get a 50 per cent discount on courts for badminton, squash, 5-a-side football, netball and basketball.

Alan Lunt, strategic director for place, said: "This half term Dudley Council is organising lots of fantastic activities across the borough, including activities at libraries and parks and I would encourage parents to find out more about them by visiting www.dudley.gov.uk/schoolsout."

Pre-booking at reception is recommended for most of the school holiday activities.

A 50 per cent discount is available with an Options+ leisure discount card.

For more information visit Dudley Leisure Centre, call (01384) 812800 or go to www.dudley.gov.uk/sport

Charity in plea to find homes for youngsters

By Richard Guttridge

A BLACK Country charity is calling on people to offer vulnerable teenagers a home after revealing it has been forced to turn youngsters away following a surge in applications.

Youngsters have been placed with families in Dudley borough as part of the YMCA's Open Door project which aims to prevent them from becoming homeless.

But bosses at the charity said they are now struggling to keep up with the level of demand and need more people to open their doors offer the young people a roof over their heads.

Applications have tripled this year compared to the same period 12 months ago. They have received 38 referrals, which has left them struggling to cope with demand.

Hosts

The charity is now looking for new hosts to provide a safe place for youngsters to live. Hosts can come from a variety of different backgrounds, from single people to married couples or families with children who have a spare room available.

Children who are offered a home have to agree to take up education or employment as part of the scheme. Those who agree to take the youngsters receive around £100 a week and can claim £20 in expenses for dinner, bed and breakfast. Full training and support is provided by the YMCA.

The charity will be running a free host preparation course which will allow people who are interested to find out more about the scheme.

Kerry Davies, a host in Dudley, said: "I was a bit nervous at first about becoming a host as I have no children of my own and wasn't sure how well I would relate to them. I am now on my second long-term placement and I've loved every minute"

Email rachael.taylor@ymcabc.org.uk or call 0121 524 1974.

Mayor's last duty is a piece of cake

Mayor Steve Waltho with Debbie Barrett, Denise Hudson, Janet Hutchinson and mayoress Jayne Waltho

IN his last official duty, the Mayor of Dudley cut a celebratory cake.

The borough's outgoing civic leader Councillor Steve Waltho helped White House Cancer Support mark the 10th anniversary of its reconstruction group at their base in Ednam Road.

The original group was founded in 1984 by cancer patient Elizabeth Harris.

The off-shoot was launched a decade ago after a chance meeting in a supermarket by breast cancer patients Denise Hudson and Debbie Barratt.

"They had both had reconstruction surgery and felt that women could benefit from a group specifically to support others considering surgery," said Pam Cartwright, the group's information officer. The group has since helped dozens of women through breast cancer and subsequent surgery.

Pam said: "It can be quite a daunting process and many women find it very useful to be talked through what it entails.

"They can get information and guidance and find out actually how it feels, what emotions they go through as well as the surgery itself.

"They also find out about what services we can provide, such as various complementary therapies and group support. There's a lot of laughter at the meetings, it's a very happy group."

For further details contact (01384) 231232.

Praise for initiative to tackle hate crime

A PROJECT in Dudley that supports the victims of hate crime has been praised by the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner.

The Commissioner's Victims Fund provided £14,608 to Summit House's Dudley Advice and Safety Project.

Money was spent on providing the victims of hate crime in the borough with support and advice and guiding them to organisations that can help them recover further. It focuses on homophobia and transphobia.

An exhibition event held at Summit House in North Street, Dudley, celebrated the work and achievements of the scheme.

Proud

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said: "I was so very proud to speak at this event celebrating the sterling work of Summit House's Dudley Advice and Safety Project. I am proud that my office has been able to fund this.

"Hate crime is a stomach-churning offence and we must do all we can to bring it out of the shadows and into the light so we can tackle it head-on.

"The care of victims is paramount and this scheme helps people get back on their feet by providing 'hate crime champions' to support them throughout their recovery.

"We all have the right to live in peace regardless of our sexuality, gender, race and religion and it sickens me there are still people out there who believe otherwise."

Town has a latte of coffee shops

STOURBRIDGE town centre is now brimming with coffee shops.

Coffee#1 has just opened in the former Dorothy Perkins shop on the High Street, creating up to ten jobs.

There is already a Caffe Nero and Coffee Collective on High Street, Costa round the corner in the Ryemarket, Rimskis just yards away in Crown Lane and Grays and Cafe Express in Market Street. There is also the Mary Stevens Hospice coffee shop at its branch in High Street

Councillor Nicolas Barlow, who represents the Wollaston and Stourbridge Town ward, said the town is now full to the brim with places to grab a latte. He said: "Coffee shops seem to be the thing of the moment. As long as the shops are being occupied then we have to welcome this."

Brewery to run own three-day beer festival

A STOURBRIDGE brewery is holding a three-day summer beer festival at it's own brewery tap next month.

The event is at the Green Duck Beer Company's brewery and tap, the Badelynge Bar, in Rufford Road, from June 16 to 18.

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University may look at raising tuition fee

THE University of Wolverhampton says it will consider raising tuition fees in line with Government plans.

University bosses said they support the White Paper that will allow some universities to demand more in tuition fees from students.

The White Paper says the higher the university is rated in terms of its quality of teaching, the more it can charge, in line with inflation. But the measures would also see universities forced to reduce charges if they are ranked badly.

Linking quality of teaching with the amount of money charged has been welcomed by the University of Wolverhampton, which has campuses across the West Midlands.

Geoff Layer, vice-chancellor at the University of Wolverhampton, said: "Fees have been at a fixed level for a number of years and costs are increasing along with student expectations. We will consider raising fees in line with inflation as and when we have the authority to do so.

"I'm pleased the Government's White Paper has choice for students at the heart of its higher education reform strategy.

"We welcome the increased focus on providing high quality courses which can be accessed by a range of people regardless of their background or social status.

"This complements the outcome of our recent QAA Higher Education Review which commended our approach to the enhancement of student learning opportunities."

X Factor singer has date in city

A SINGER-songwriter who appeared on the X Factor is to appear in Wolverhampton next week.

Musician Lucy Spraggan appeared on the talent show in 2012, with her audition video viewed 35 million times on YouTube.

She is to perform at the Newhampton Arts Centre, Dunkley Street, Wolverhampton, on June 2. It is part of her UK 'Home' tour ahead of the release of her new album of the same name.

Miss Spraggan was the most Googled musician of 2012 and came off the show to be immediately signed to Columbia Records.

Doors open at 7pm and tickets cost £12. For more information visit www.newhamptonarts.co.uk/lucy-spraggan

Jump The Shark headline at pub

YOUNG Wolverhampton band Jump The Shark have a headline gig at Birmingham pub venue The Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, on Wednesday. The quartet won a BRIT award for up and coming young talent.

Robbers jailed after violent rampage

Tyrone Reid – seven years

ROBBERS who stole more than £1 million in cash, property and vehicles in a violent rampage across the Midlands have been jailed for more than 100 years.

Nine of the gang of 14, who targeted supermarkets and banks, were sentenced at Stafford Crown Court last week, including a Dudley man.

Before the court were Tyrone Reid, 25, of Cromwell Street, Dudley; Mark Hazel, 35, from Leaside Avenue, Rugeley; and Connor Robertson, 25, of Wood End Lane, Lichfield. Six other men from Birmingham and London were sentenced. All had been found guilty after a trial.

The gang's crimes included a robbery at HSBC in Sutton Coldfield where property and cash to the value of £700,000 was stolen and an employee was left needing hospital treatment.

The 14 men were charged in May 2014 with the exception of Robertson and Hazel, who went on the run.

Hazel and Reid continued to carry out violent robberies at Co-ops in Staffordshire. The crime spree came to an end in June 2015 when police arrived during a robbery at Morrisons on Upper Gungate in Tamworth. Hazel was arrested in the Preston area after a robbery in Wales.

Robertson was jailed for 12 years six months for conspiracy to rob, to burgle and to steal. Hazel got eight years for conspiracy to rob and to burgle. Reid was sentenced to seven years for conspiracy to rob and steal. Of the Birmingham men, Aaron Leathem, 24, of Gipsy Lane, was given 15 years six months for conspiracy to rob, to burgle, to steal and conspiracy to burgle. Irfan Bonner, 28, of Faulkners Farm Drive, was jailed for 10 years six months for conspiracy to rob and to steal. Wayne Stokes, 31, of The Ridgeway, was sentenced to 10 years for conspiracy to rob and an additional robbery.

Enterprise zone will transform Waterfront

THE creation of an enterprise zone in Brierley Hill will bring 4,000 jobs and 'change the perception' of the area, says a Black Country business leader.

Business in the Black Country was given a huge boost when proposals to make The Waterfront and parts of neighbouring Harts Hill an enterprise zone were approved as part of the Chancellor's budget in March.

Now members of the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership have been hitting the streets to tell people how the massive scheme will transform the area and benefit local residents.

Enterprise zones attempt to aid business growth by offering companies advantages by agreeing to set up there.

Businesses moving in at Brierley Hill will be given the carrot of a business rate-free period for five years to tempt them to move to the complex near the Merry Hill shopping centre.

Long-term aims also include creating 66,000 sq ft of business space to improve what is already on offer to potential tenants.

Civic leaders say the plans also hold the key to bringing the much-heralded Midland Metro extension to Brierley Hill.

Tweet

To mark the publicity campaign, bosses posted a tweet which said: "Brierley Hill Enterprise Zone will create jobs locally and across the whole West Midlands."

Ninder Johal, a board member at the Local Enterprise Partnership, said he was expecting an 'influx of businesses' at the site over the next few years and pointed to the i54 development in Wolverhampton as evidence of how successful enterprise zones can be.

He said: "What we are talking about is 4,000 jobs and the potential for small businesses to find a place where they can grow.

"An influx businesses means we can fully utilise local colleges and universities to up-skill people. When it all comes to fruition there will be a lot of jobs, a lot of skills and the perception of the area will change."

Mr Johal said it was not known when work on delivering the enterprise zone would begin at this stage.

"We have only just managed to get approval. We have had the nod and we will get into the detail and see what we can do."

Halesowen College student Chelsea Rist, aged 16, has been chosen as Miss Earth 2016 during a pageant in Birmingham this month

Chelsea's food for thought at pageant

A 16-YEAR-old Halesowen student has won the coveted title of Miss Earth after she impressed the judges with her campaign against food waste.

Halesowen College animal care student Chelsea Rist, of Hartshorne Street, Bilston, won the Miss Earth 2016 pageant after a weekend of competing at the MacDonalds Burlington Hotel, Birmingham, which saw her complete a catwalk challenge, a cocktail dress round, a evening wear, swimwear and eco-challenge round.

Idea

Chelsea's idea for the eco-challenge was a campaign to prevent people from ditching unwanted frozen goods before they get to the till, which means a product defrosts before staff have a chance to return it to the correct department.

Fundraiser Chelsea, who has already raised £1,200 for different charities since the start of this year, is planning a charity skydive on June 4 and an abseil for charity Acorns on July 2.

The following day she will be doing the 5k colour blast run for Compton Hospice.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Wartime songs part of forces day

MORE attractions lined up for this year's Armed Forces Day at Himley Hall and Park in Dudley have been revealed.

The free event on Sunday, June 26, from 11am to 5pm, will include the return of popular singing trio the D-Day Darlings. There will be displays by the Air Training Cadets and the Sealed Knot civil war group will be turning back the clock to the 17th century.

The event will include a tribute to the Queen to mark her 90th birthday and surpassing Queen Victoria as Britain's longest reigning monarch.

Fashion show to benefit charity

A FASHION show is being held next month in aid of Wolverhampton-based charity Promise Dreams.

Blakelands Country House, Halfpenny Green, will be hosting the event on Wednesday, June 8, from 1pm.

The fashion show will get under way at 1.30pm. Ladies fashion boutique Aristocats, from Penn, will be showcasing designer clothes.

Following the show there will be an afternoon tea, which will have a vintage theme.

A raffle and auction will also take place.

Campaign to help the small charities

DUDLEY Council for Voluntary Services is inviting the charities to get involved in Small Charity Week.

The campaign to put lesser known good causes on the map runs from June 13 to 18 and is run by the Foundation for Social Improvement. It defines small charities as those with an annual turnover of under £1.5 million.

On June 13 they are encouraged to join the #ILoveSmallCharities celebrations on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

Lots of displays at the Penn History Fair

PENN History Fair returns to Wolverhampton next month. It takes place at Penn United Reformed Church on Penn Road and will feature 29 exhibitors and a wide range of new displays about Codsall, Penn, Sedgley, Tettenhall, Wednesfield, Wolverhampton and Wombourne.

Admission is free and the event runs from 10am-8pm on June 10 and 9am-4pm the following day.

There will also be demonstrations of rag-rugging and a host of displays.

Bid to trace relatives

THE Black Country coroner is appealing for help in tracing the relatives of a man who has died at his home in Dudley. Donald Ralph, of Ketley Hill Road, in Russells Hall, was aged 89.

Contact Yolanda Rose-Bird at the coroner's office at Jack Judge House, Halesowen Street, Oldbury.

ADVERTISEMENT

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Response to tiff sure takes some bleating

WE'VE all been there. Thomas Thwaites was feeling a bit down in the dumps, his job wasn't going as well as he would have liked, and he'd had a tiff with his girlfriend. So he did what any of us would have done. He decided to become a goat, I kid you not.

First of all, he had some prosthetic hooves fitted, and started walking around on all fours. Then he put on a rather strange white hat, which made him look like a Star Wars character. Or one of those bolshie cyclists who go through red traffic lights.

But the 34-year-old didn't have it all his own way. He asked a neuroscientist if he could shut down part of his brain, to make him think like a goat, but for some reason the technology hasn't been perfected yet.

They couldn't alter his digestive system so he could live on raw grass, either, so he had to take a pressure cooker along with him. Which didn't go down terribly well in the goat community.

Anyway, he spent six days living on the Alps, hobbling around on all fours and sleeping in a barn. He's also written a book about it, which you're no doubt itching to read.

He also reckons he made a goat friend, although they all left him behind when they decided to migrate.

National Union of Mountain Goats spokesman Goatee McGoatface was unimpressed.

He said: "He looked nothing like a goat, we just thought he was a strange man having an early mid-life crisis. We would have been more impressed if he had bought a Harley Davidson."

By the way, the Wellcome Trust medical charity gave him £29,000 for his work. You're telling me that is not value for money?

❒❒❒

FILMING has reportedly been taking place around Birmingham for a sequel to action movie Kingsman: The Secret Service, which starred Colin Firth as a dapper security chief.

Having had high hopes for the film, which I thought would be a stylish witty movie along the lines of The Avengers, I have to say it was one of the daftest things I had seen.

But still, it is good to see the West Midlands getting a bit of exposure on the big screen, although it's a shame they didn't choose the Black Country instead.

Gunfights on the big wheel in Dudley, speedboat chases on the cut in Bilston, what's not to like?

What's more, I'm sure they could rustle up some shenanigans at the West Brom Casino.

These movie types have got no imagination, that's the trouble. That's why they always make sequels.

Some of Hannah Reynolds's specially commissioned artwork

Local historian David Robbie at the exhibition launch

A close-up of Hannah Reynolds's exhibits

Tolkien celebration starts year-long tour

JRR Tolkien's Staffordshire Map by Hannah Reynolds

JRR Tolkien during the Great War

'JRR Tolkien – Soldier and Myth Maker' tour dates

2016

CANNOCK LIBRARY – Tuesday 26 April to Wednesday, June 1.

RUGELEY LIBRARY – Friday, June 3 to Saturday, July 2.

GREAT HAYWOOD Memorial Hall – Tuesday, July 5 to Sunday, July 10.

CODSALL LIBRARY – Tuesday, July 12 to Monday, August 22.

PENKRIDGE LIBRARY – Wednesday, August 24 to Saturday, October 22.

SHIRE HALL GALLERY – Tuesday, October 25 to Wednesday, November 16.

LICHFIELD Library – Friday, November 18 to Saturday, January 8, 2017.

2017

STAFFORD LIBRARY / SP1 foyer – Tuesday, January 10 to Monday, February 27.

AN exhibition celebrating the author of The Lord of the Rings' links with Staffordshire has begun a year-long tour of the region.

This fascinating insight into the early years of one of the world's best-loved writers, and his time spent in Staffordshire, has already been seen by almost 4,000 visitors during its stay at the Museum of Cannock Chase.

'JRR Tolkien – Soldier and Myth Maker: JRR Tolkien in Staffordshire 1915-1918', organised by The Haywood Society, supported by Staffordshire County Council's libraries and arts service and the Museum of Cannock Chase, and funded by The Heritage Lottery Fund, is at Cannock Library throughout May.

Libraries chief Councillor Ben Adams said it is clear that Staffordshire had a profound effect on the writer's formative years, and that the county is right to feel proud of those links when his worldwide appeal is probably at its highest.

"The Tolkien in Staffordshire story is one of war, comradeship, creativity, love and loss, and this exhibition offers visitors a rare chance to learn more about the author's stay in Staffordshire and what it was like to be a soldier in the Great War," Councillor Adams added.

Genuine

Highlights of the exhibition include rare photos and original sketches of domestic scenes and landscapes by Tolkien, not seen in Staffordshire since they left with the author in 1918, specially loaned by The Tolkien Estate and Bodleian Library.

One visitor said: "This is a fantastic introduction to how local history can be related to national figures and bring a greater in-depth understanding to local history, in a unique and genuine way."

Another visitor said: "Go and see it, most interesting. Another gem of wisdom learned."

Arriving in Staffordshire on August 17, 1915, JRR Tolkien would begin a connection with Staffordshire that would span the remaining years of the Great War and provide inspiration for the mythology and geography of what we now know as Middle-earth.

The author was stationed first at Whittington Heath, near Lichfield, next at a musketry camp at Newcastle-under-Lyme, then at Rugeley and Brocton Camps on Cannock Chase.

After seeing action during the infamous Battle of the Somme in June 1916, Tolkien spent a period of convalescence, with his new wife Edith, in Great Haywood.

The Tolkiens later briefly took up residence in a cottage at Gipsy Green, Teddesley Park, near Penkridge. 'JRR Tolkien – Soldier and Myth Maker: JRR Tolkien in Staffordshire 1915-1918' can be visited at Cannock Library, during normal opening hours, until Wednesday, June 1.

The exhibition then moves to Rugeley Library until Saturday, July 2.

Organised

Events have been organised to accompany the exhibition, include a Tolkien talk by local historian and exhibition collaborator David Robbie and a family craft workshop with local artist Hannah Reynolds, whose work features prominently in the exhibition.

For more information, contact Cannock Library, via the Staffordshire County Council contact centre, on 0300 111 8000 or email cannock.library@staffordshire.gov.uk

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Expansion of EU membership and increasing immigration are killing our country's services

IT seems a majority of people are still undecided on which way to vote in our referendum next month.

I follow politics in all the media and I am certain of which vote will be better for our country and personal future prosperity.

Unfortunately, most people do not watch the news programmes or read the the political columns in the newspapers.

The truth is, we are all being shackled by hundreds of new laws and petty fogging regulations pouring from the unelected so-called government in Brussels. On top of these are diktats which our government says we are forced to comply with.

The expansion of EU membership and increasing immigration are killing our country's services. The NHS, housing provision and all social care are being destroyed by the pressures of overloading. And now a European Army is being planned.

It is obvious to me that our only salvation is to get out of this failed EU project and start to enjoy the prosperity once again of making our own way in the world.

The British Isles have been successful, both in times of Empire and Commonwealth and could be again.

Let the Midlands lead the way and VOTE OUT for the sake of the young couples, their children and grandchildren and generations to come.

ERIC CASEY
Kinsgwinford

Elderly are being left in dire straits

SO now our hard pressed hospitals are forced into another impossible situation, vulnerable and infirm patients are now having to be evicted from their hospital beds, sometimes late at night in order to free up space for others.

There is little provision in local authority accommodation for these often older people who in many cases can no longer manage on their own.

Yes, we should have known that we would need to offer more facilities both for our older people who have struggled through so much, and also the current baby boomers. But how can we plan for an unknown number of European Union migrants, 800,000 in the last year, all entitled to receive care from our National Health Service?

Is anyone still in any doubt as to which way to vote? As I see it we have no choice.

R GWILLIAMS
Brierley Hill

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Do not take local newspapers for granted, says MEP

LOCAL newspapers are taken for granted by many readers – but they should never be under-valued, particularly as sadly many are under threat and many others have vanished forever.

This is Local Newspaper Week and it is only right that the fantastic role they play in community life should be highlighted.

Life gets ever harder for newspapers, particularly the weeklies, with decreased staffing levels and local authorities, hospital trusts and emergency services employing press officers to try to ensure only good news is revealed.

With local authorities using a cabinet system the so called transparency they preach can be anything but.

However, determined journalists always seek after the truth on behalf of the communities they serve and that should never be forgotten.

J CARVER
West Midlands UKIP MEP

Not happy with new Yeltz strip

THE heritage and tradition of the Halesowen Town Football Club badge has been decimated from being 'class' to 'crass'.

There is no indication it is a football club badge as FC is not printed on it. It could be a rugby, cricket or whatever club that it represents.

The drawing of St John's Church, which is symbolic with Halesowen Town, is a total disgrace and detrimental to the historic church.

Over the years that the instantly recognisable badge of HTFC has appeared on shirts, scarves and other products, there has never been a problem. Surely with the advanced technology involved for today's media, these two traditional symbols are not a problem.

Who authorised this change of badge with no regard for the supporters voice? Yes, things do have to move on, but this badge change is definitely NOT for the better.

R HOPKINS
Halesowen

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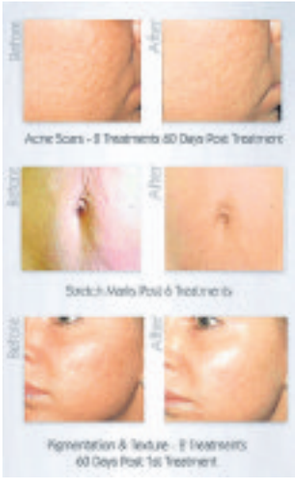

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Pioneering women who led the way for female slant to politics

MEMORY LANE

By Richard Guttridge

THE 1918 general election was a groundbreaking vote as women went to the polls for the first time.

And while the battles of the suffragettes to secure the vote for women went down in history, less is known about the first women who stood for election.

Former MEP David Hallam, of Smethwick

Of the 17 women who contested the election, three were from the Black Country and Birmingham – meaning the West Midlands provided more female candidates than anywhere else in the UK.

Daunting

It was a proud moment for Mary McArthur, Margery Corbett Ashby and Christobel Pankhurst – daughter of suffragette leader Emmeline – but surely a slightly daunting one too as they entered into a political scene which had previously been a men-only club.

Their stories have been retold almost 100 years on from that historic election by David Hallam, a former MEP from Smethwick, who carried out research as part of his Masters of Arts course at Birmingham University.

While the three women were at the forefront of early 20th century girl power, the unity ended there as they stood for different parties.

Mary MacArthur contested the Stourbridge seat, which also included Oldbury, Halesowen and Warley Woods, for Labour.

Christobel Pankhurst stood in Smethwick as a Women's Party Coalition Candidate.

Margery Corbett Ashby had the toughest task as she took on the might of the Unionist electoral machine in Birmingham Ladywood facing Neville Chamberlain, who would later become Prime Minister.

Just getting on the ballot paper was a victory in itself but it soon became clear their path towards the House of Commons would be anything but straightforward.

And it wasn't to be as all three women were defeated. Of the 17 women who stood across the UK, just one was elected and that was in Dublin which was at that time still part of the union.

"All three women were in their 30s whilst their well entrenched male opponents were much older, in their 40s or 50s." Mr Hallam said.

Opponents

"All three were disappointed with the outcome. Both MacArthur and Pankhurst were tipped to win by local and national pundits."

Mary MacArthur in particular was given a rough ride by opposition candidates.

Mr Hallam said: "She was subject to some really sexist abuse from her opponents.

"Of course, no-one thought of having female MPs. The press also made a big fuss about it so there was a novelty value.

"But it was an unusual election.

"Most of the troops were away on active service.

"In a town like Smethwick around a quarter of the men would have been away."

Only one of the defeated candidates from the West Midlands would stand again as their lives took very different paths.

MacArthur died soon afterwards, Pankhurst withdrew from politics altogether to concentrate on promoting her religious beliefs.

Corbett Ashby, meanwhile, battled on, contesting another six elections.

But her dream to stand as an MP would never be realised as she was unsuccessful on each occasion.

But while the three women would never take their seats in Parliament, they were the inspiration for those who followed.

Mr Hallam said: "It was something of an inauspicious start but it was an historic moment."

President

Today, there are seven female MPs in the Black Country and Birmingham.

And looking further afield the United States could have its first female president later this year in Hillary Clinton.

But it was a journey that was far from easy.

Mr Hallam said: "Women achieved the vote and the right to stand for Parliament in 1918 and yet for nearly 70 years afterwards never held more than five per cent, averaging about 25 of the 600 or so seats in the House of Commons.

"Even today there are only 148 female MPs.

"My study of those first three women throws some light on the resistance women met, and still meet, when putting themselves forward for election."

Part of a poster for Christabel Pankhurst's campaign

Mary MacArthur sets out her stall

Family-orientated – Margery Corbett Ashby

Neighbours tried to save woman from house blaze

The scene of the fatal fire in Spring Road, Netherton — Picture courtesy of West Midlands Fire Service

NEIGHBOURS have spoken of their horror after a woman died when a blaze ripped through a house in Netherton.

Neighbours tried to save the 67-year-old, named locally as Gillian Howard. Police have launched an investigation into her death at the house in Spring Road and thanked residents for their 'valiant' attempts to come to her aid.

Mrs Howard's daughter Nicki was taken to hospital after the fire on Thursday, which left the semi-detached property a charred wreck. The pensioner's body was found in the front lounge of the house after a fire tore through the building. Mrs Howard was confirmed dead at the scene.

Miss Howard, aged 36, was taken to Dudley's Russells Hall hospital and treated for smoke inhalation and shock.

Police have appealed for witnesses to the blaze to come forward.

Neighbour Jackie Tanner, 47, heard screams on Thursday morning and rushed outside in her dressing gown to try to help.

Doctor's receptionist Mrs Tanner, a mother of one, said: "I heard a woman screaming that her mum was in the house which was on fire.

"I could see her on the floor in the living room. I opened the door and she was lying there. I had to crawl because the smoke and heat was that bad. Then the curtains came down and the next thing I know I just got blown out of the house somehow.

"I'm so sorry that she died. It's terrible."

A second woman was treated for smoke inhalation. A third woman, believed to be a neighbour, was uninjured.

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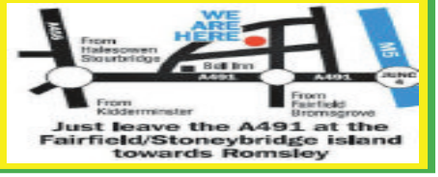

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Son left traumatised by knife attack on mother

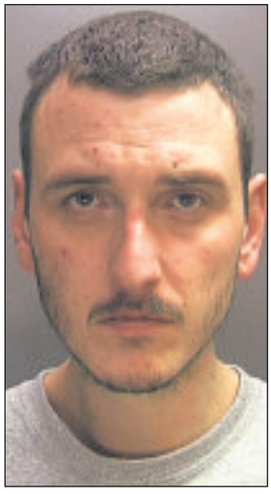
'IT'S heartbreaking' – the words of a mother whose five-year-old son has been left traumatised after his father attacked her with a knife.

Karl Hughes, of George Close, Dudley, was jailed for 15 years last week for his brutal attack on Toni Bennett, when he slashed her knife with an eight-inch blade.

Miss Bennett and 31-year-old Hughes had been in a long-term relationship of 14 years and had three children together – Jessica, two, Alexander, five, and Josh, 10.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard how Hughes' drinking and jealousy had driven a wedge between the pair and they had decided he would move out of the family home.

However, after he had drunk nearly a bottle of vodka on November 21 last year he crept in through an unlocked window and attacked Miss Bennett with a knife, just yards away from their children.



Karl Hughes is serving 15 years in jail after attacking his former partner

Toni Bennett shows the scar on her neck after the vicious knife attack

Scars

She has been left with scars to her neck and still has not been able to return to her job as a nursery nurse.

Despite the scars, the most devastating impact for Miss Bennett has been the psychological trauma experienced by her children, who have had to undergo counselling.

Miss Bennett, 29, said: "My little girl is only two, so she's oblivious. But Alex, who is five, is having nightmares. He screams, cries and shouts out 'daddy, stop it' or 'daddy, don't do it'. He is dreaming of his dad attacking him.

"It's heartbreaking for all of us to see him that upset and that distressed at night. All I can do is cuddle him. None of the children should have had to see what happened."

Miss Bennett said sitting in the courtroom was an emotional experience, but she needed to do it to be able to move on with her life. She said: "I was shaking when I was in there but I had to do it for closure for myself, for what he did to me. I wanted to look him in the face and show that he hasn't ruined my life."

During the sentencing, Hughes' lawyer Mr Simon Hanns mentioned his 'remorse' and his desire to apologise.

But Miss Bennett said no apology could make up for her former partner's actions.

"When they said that I just shook my head," she said. "He could say sorry a thousand times but I'm not going to forgive him for what he has done and put our three children through. It's awful. He has to face the consequences for his actions."

Hughes admitted attempting to murder Miss Bennett and possession of cannabis.

Mr Hanns said the behaviour 'was out of character' for Hughes, who was 'genuinely remorseful'. He was jailed for 15 years and three months for attempted murder and one month for possession of cannabis, to run concurrently, and ordered to pay £120.

The court heard Hughes had 'frozen' when the pair's elder son, then aged nine, appeared but then shoved the knife into Miss Bennett's shoulder.

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Grange (E) Guild

ACTING chairman Chris Holton presided over the meeting at Grange Court, Stourbridge on Tuesday May 3.

She read the minutes from the previous meeting which were accepted and signed as a true record.

Secretary Jean Williams gave her report and treasurer Jill Attwood gave an up to date financial report. Speaker's secretary Marlene O'Hanlon attended the West Midlands Federation's AGM and reported all details back. All speakers for 2017 had now been booked and dates confirmed.

Marlene also gave an estimated cost of filling a shoe box and members were given the choice of filling the shoe box themselves or donating suitable items on a monthly basis.

The copper collection is still going strong and a cheque for £50 was presented to the Lye Disabled Club. Items for the food bank were still being collected for distribution.

The next meeting of the lunch club will be held on June 14 at the Gate at Bournheath. The evening summer will be held on June 21 at The Brasserie, Kidderminster.

Speaker for the evening Alan Wedge was unfortunately taken ill and David Grayland very kindly stepped in at the last minute. He gave a very interesting talk about the history of Kidderminster Carpets.

Refreshments were served and the raffle was drawn with three lucky ladies winning prizes.

From glory of colour to Black Country fun

Sisters Jessie, left, and Jo Powell, flanked by luncheon club member Sue Fellows

Dudley South Ladies Luncheon Club

CHAIRMAN Mary Jones welcomed 37 members and two visitors to the May meeting. Once again the three-course meal was excellent and the chef and staff were specially thanked for making the Luncheon Club such a pleasure to attend.

The speakers were sisters Jessie and Jo Powell who brought along a beautiful display of antique and modern jewellery, as well as collectables and scarves, which could be purchased following the talk.

They passed around special items of interest explaining their history and names of semi-precious stones. Vice-chairman Ann Rogers had three spaces left for the visit to Himley Hall for afternoon tea on Wednesday, June 15, starting at 2pm.

The next luncheon will be on Friday, June 10, noon for 12.30pm at The Lodge, Wellington Road, Dudley when the speaker will be Sue Langley on The Glory of Colour. In July members will be in for a treat when David Bartley returns with his Black Country poems and humour.

Sisters show off antique items

Kingswinford Ladies Social Circle

CHAIRMAN Sheila Evans welcomed members and speakers, 2 Sisters, to the May 4 meeting.

A luncheon in September at The March Hare in Worcester was suggested, followed by some retail therapy in the city.

Also proposed was a trip to Trentham Gardens, in November to see the Christmas decorations and enjoy the unusual gifts on sale.

Speakers Jessie and Jo began their presentation with Jessie reading her own poem about vintage years.

They then showed a variety of antique items, including an imitation ivory glove stretcher, jewellery and brooches, made by 'Hollywood' and sold in Woolworths. One brooch was made by Christian Dior and quite valuable.

There was a green, glass vase, containing uranium and a dainty bone china Japanese tea set where the face of a Geisha girl could be seen in the base of the cup.

Three ladies won raffle prizes and there was a jewellery sales table.

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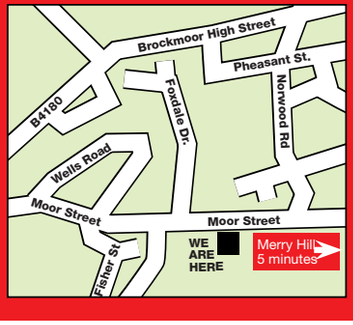

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Dragon boats make quite a splash at the Great Pool

AN annual dragon boat extravaganza celebrated its 16th anniversary with 24 teams taking part in the colourful race on the lake at Himley Park, near Dudley.

Thousands watched participants from across the Black Country and beyond take to the challenge on the Great Pool.

The event, which is organised by Wolverhampton Rotary Club, has raised almost £320,000 over the years.

It involves a 350 yard race with teams competing in various heats throughout the day.

Richard Green, district governor of Wolverhampton Rotary Club, said: "It takes us a lot of preparation for all to stage this event and plans begin about two months after it finishes each year.

"But to see so many people take part and raise money for us and many other causes is fantastic. The weather stayed perfect for us."

Each team undertook three runs of the course and the heats were followed by two finals with six boats in each.

Each crew member is asked to raise £50 with half of the money going to their chosen charity and half to those selected by the rotary club.

Peter Hand, secretary, added: "When this first started 16 years ago one of our Rotarians suggested holding a dragon boat event would be a good idea, and since then it has grown and grown. We have 24 entrants this year and in excess of 3,000 people always come out."

"We have some extremely generous people who donate their time and effort to us."

A team from Moog Aerospace prepare for the annual Dragon Boats charity races at Himley Hall's Great Pool

Euro cops join blitz on foreign criminals

MORE than 100 vehicles have been seized in the West Midlands and 39 people arrested in the first few days of a crackdown on crime involving foreign officers.

West Midlands Police have been working with police officers from Romania, Lithuania and Holland as part of Operation Trivium, which targets foreign national offenders in the UK.

The arrests include a 44-year-old Polish man, who was picked up at an address in Lozells and a 62-year-old Czech man who was stopped on Wednesday in a vehicle on the M5. They are wanted for fraud and burglary charges, respectively, in their home countries. The men were detained under European Arrest warrants and will now be deported.

Three Romanian men were arrested southbound on the M5 on suspicion of stealing TVs and wine from a Co-Op store in Staffordshire.

The week-long operation sees officers able to carry out swift intelligence checks on police systems across Europe and provide police patrols in the UK with background information on any foreign suspects they encounter.

Inspectors tell school to improve more quickly

A DUDLEY secondary school has been told its rate of improvement is 'too slow' following a monitoring visit from Ofsted.

Senior leaders and governors at Holly Hall Academy were said to be 'not taking effective action' to tackle areas highlighted for improvement identified in the school's previous inspection in May 2015.

On that occasion the academy was given a grade three rating overall, with all four key areas of leadership and management, pupil behaviour and safety, quality of teaching and achievement said to require improvement.

By Peter Madeley

Following a monitoring visit on April 22, inspectors concluded that the rate of improvement – especially in the quality of teaching – had been 'too slow'.

The report said this was down to 'leaders and governors focusing their energies on addressing the school's financial and staffing issues'.

Challenges

It said that Holly Hall was a school facing 'significant financial challenges' and 'legacy issues of staffing and leadership structures' and called for training in areas where it was most needed.

However, the report notes that the pace of improvement has increased since the arrival of new principal Rob Hatch last September.

It says pupils now receive better feedback, while teaching in science was improving due to 'good subject leadership'.

Inspector Alun Williams wrote: "The principal, supported by an increasingly effective senior leadership team, has brought a clear vision and a determination to improve Holly Hall.

"Senior leaders have an accurate understanding of the school's strengths and weaknesses and have drawn up detailed and comprehensive improvement plans.

"However, it is too early for many of the actions contained in the plans to have yielded improvement."

The report said that pupils' behaviour was improving, with 'clear new systems' resulting in 'fewer fixed term exclusions and internal isolations'.

"Leaders are aware that more work is needed to eradicate disruption of lessons caused by the behaviour of a minority of pupils," it stated.

Attendance at the academy was said to now be close to the national average.

"Leaders know that further improving the attendance of disadvantaged pupils is a priority," the report added.

Mr Hatch said the report was a 'fair reflection' of work undertaken at the academy.

He added: "Holly Hall is very ambitious to reach the status of 'Good' by the next inspection."

OCD forum is being held by health trust

OBSESSIVE Compulsive Disorder is the topic of a mental health forum organised by Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust next month.

The event on June 16 will focus on the disorder, commonly known as OCD. It takes place from 11am to 2pm at Brierley Hill Civic Hall in Bank Street.

"There are a number of misconceptions about obsessive compulsive disorder which is one reason we have decided to focus our next forum on the topic", said Olivia Clymer, a non-executive director of the Trust. "The anxiety-based condition goes far beyond regular hand washing or checking light switches. It can be so debilitating and disabling that the World Health Organisation has ranked OCD in the top 10 of the most disabling illnesses of any kind."

The event will feature guest speakers and lunch will be provided. To book email communication@dwmh.nhs.uk or call (01384) 325015.

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Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, May 26, 2016

TV times are a-changing as viewers take control

By Mark Andrews

WATER coolers weren't that common in the early 1970s, but if they had been then Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads? would have been what has become known as water-cooler television.

At its height, the laddish sitcom about the escapades of two young men from the north-east was watched by 27 million people, about half the UK population of the day, and was the talk of workplaces the length and breadth of the country.

They just don't make television like that these days, and they certainly don't pull in anything like those viewing figures. While last year's top-rated programme, the grand final of the Great British Bake Off, pulled in just over 15 million viewers, this if far from the norm.

Britain's Got Talent, which has topped the TV ratings of the past few weeks, is attracting just over 9.6 million viewers, while EastEnders and Coronation Street are typically watched by audiences of 6 to 8 million – compared to more than 30 million when Angie Watts was presented with her divorce papers on Christmas Day, 1986, or 26.7 million when Hilda Ogden left Coronation Street the following year.

Novelty

The end of the truly huge viewing figures is partly down to the sheer number of channels now available. Back in the days of Bob and Terry's escapades, there were still only three channels, with the colour service that came with the launch of BBC2 in 1964 still something of a novelty.

But a growing number of people are turning their back on conventional TV services as they increasingly use internet-based on-demand services such as Netflix or BBC iPlayer, which can be viewed through computers, tablets or mobile phones.

The past two years have seen a steady decline in TV ownership, and new figures from the Broadcasters Audience Research Board (Barb) show that 1.3 million households – nearly one in 20 – do not own a television set.

At the same time, there has been a surge in the number of people subscribing to on-demand pay-per-view services. At the end of 2014, just 14 per cent of households had subscriptions with the services, but by the end of 2015 that had almost doubled to 24 per cent.

Brandon Paskin, from the Priorslee area of Telford, is typical of the new generation who no longer bother with conventional television services.

While Mr Paskin subscribes to on-demand services Netflix and Now TV, he no longer has access to conventional television channels.

"The main reason I don't choose to watch live television is that everything I might want to watch is on demand now," says the 24-year-old van driver. "I can pick a time that suits me instead of sticking to schedules."

The report said that Netflix, which has scored a string of hit shows including House Of Cards and Making A Murderer, continues to dominate the market, despite growth of rivals Amazon Video and Now TV.

The number of households with Netflix grew by 1.4 million over the 12-month period, compared with an increase of 500,000 households for Amazon Video and 300,000 households for Now TV.

And while it is perhaps not surprising that the new players have threatened the old BBC-ITV monopoly, more recent entrants to the TV market such as Sky could also see themselves coming under more intense pressure.

Mr Paskin points out that the cost of subscribing to a service such as Netflix is about £10 a month, substantially cheaper than a satellite or cable service.

"I only have Netflix and Now TV at the moment and I'd say it's easier to find something you want to watch than mindlessly flicking through Sky's 2,000-plus channels and finding nothing.

"A Sky bill is closer to £60 a month for any kind of decent package, so in my eyes the value for money with subscriptions is miles better. Not to mention one subscription can be used on multiple accounts by multiple people."

This trend is only likely to head one way if the younger generation are anything to go by. A separate survey, by research agency, Childwise, showed that children spent more time on their computers than watching television programmes. And it found that among those who did watch television, Netflix is the most popular service.

But the Barb report, which is based on a survey of 53,000 people, suggests that the reasons for deserting traditional television services may be more complex and varied than simply a switch to internet-based providers.

"One theory is that non-TV households are online pioneers who are keen on TV but prefer to use computer devices to access it," it says.

Of course, there is a fly in the ointment for internet giants, particularly in rural areas such as Shropshire. Despite a multi-million campaign to increase access to superfast broadband there are still many places that are still not on the network.

The days of television as a communal experience, where whole factories and offices talk about what they have seen on TV the night before, may be numbered. But the pace with which the internet revolution takes place may well depend on the rate of expansion in the county's broadband network.

They just don't make television like they used to, and they certainly don't pull in anything like the same viewing figures

Today's modern family has many more options when it comes to watching popular television shows and films

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Competition could see rivals offer joint service

THE BBC is believed to have held talks with rivals including ITV about the possibility of joining forces to combat the threat from streaming services such as Netflix.

The two broadcasters are reportedly looking into the possibility of setting up their own pay-on-demand video streaming service. The talks are also thought to include NBC Universal, which produces shows such as ITV's Downton Abbey.

The new service is likely to focus predominantly on programmes which have already been screened on mainstream channels, although it is likely there will be some original material as well.

At the moment, TV licence-payers receive free access to all BBC content, including the internet-based on-demand iPlayer service, but this content is removed 30 days after transmission.

Older content can be accessed through a number of pay-TV services, including the recently launched BBC Store, but Netflix also features popular shows such as Top Gear.

ITV also runs a 30-day digital TV service, and the two broadcasters are hoping that by joining forces to sell their archive programmes,they might be able to take on the likes of Netflix, which has more than 75 million subscribers across the world.

The commercial value of such a service could prove crucial to the BBC, which has been told to find annual savings worth £800 million. Meanwhile, ITV chief Adam Crozier hopes that the extra revenue stream would make the company less reliant on conventional advertising income.

In February, Mr Crozier said ITV would seek to "explore new models for content creation and distribution, through a mix of pay channels and online". It has has invested heavily in building its production arm, ITV Studios, which saw revenues grow a third to £1.2bn and profits up 27 per cent to £206m.

In July last year, the BBC scrapped the global version of its iPlayer service, which charged users subscription fees for its app in western Europe, Australia and Canada.

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Long-serving hospital workers are honoured

HOSPITAL staff in Dudley who have notched up more than 800 years of service between them have been honoured at a ceremony.

The celebrations shone the spotlight on workers who have reached milestones in their years of service for Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, ranging from 15 to 40 years.

A total of 41 workers, from nurses to office staff at the trust, which runs Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley, were honoured with long service awards by chief operating officer Paul Bytheway.

Staff were presented with a long-service certificate and badge by the trust's chief executive Paula Clark and chairman Jenni Ord.

Staff marking 30 or more years of service also received a piece of locally-made glassware.

Important

Welcoming the recipients and their guests, Ms Clark said how important long-standing members of staff were to the organisation. She added: "We are celebrating true role models who have a wealth of knowledge and understanding about the organisation, which really is invaluable to us. You have chosen to give most, if not all, of your careers to The Dudley Group, contributing so much to our patients over the years. I must thank you all for your dedication and commitment."

Among the winners was Julie Adams, a nurse advisor in the community-based continence team, marking 40 years of service. She said: "I started as a cadet at Wordsley Hospital and I have seen so many changes over the years. I've built such close friendships with my colleagues and I can't see myself working anywhere other than The Dudley Group until I retire."

Chairman Jenni Ord and Chief Executive Paula Clark celebrate with Julie Adams

Paula Clark and Jenni Ord with Sanmar Anthony Aungon who has 15 years' service

Staff nurse Sanmar Anthony Aungon, who came to Dudley from the Philippines, celebrated 15 years.

"Before coming to the UK I had worked in various places in different countries but as soon as I moved to Dudley I knew I wanted to stay," he said. "It's been 15 years since the move and I now have a wife and three children. I've stayed here for so long because my colleagues and the patients of Dudley are just so nice."

Ms Ord, at her first awards event since taking over as chairman in January, said: "It is obvious to me why all have stayed here so long. It is such a friendly organisation to work in."

After the awards ceremony, recipients were treated to refreshments including a slice of a specially made cake.

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To the Batmobile, I mean Peugeot, caped crusader

HE may not be in hot pursuit of the baddies but he is on high alert to raise money for much needed causes.

Philip Evans has spent the past eight months turning his modest Peugeot 206 into a fully-functioning Batmobile before he sets off around the coast line of Wales to raise money for cystic fibrosis.

The 60-year-old father of five from Princes End, Tipton, decided to take up the mission and logo up the car after hearing about local 11-year-old sufferer, Freya Bird.

He explained: "My wife works with Freya's mom and we heard about her struggle and I decided it would be a great way to raise money for the cystic fibrosis charity.

"In 1989 I did something similar when I turned my Ford Cortina 1600e into the bat car then.

"Everyone still knows me as Batman to this day, so to have the Peugeot looking in good shape is a great way of attracting attention to raise money for charity."

Phillip Evans from Tipton was inspired by Batman for his fundraising car trip

The car has been partly covered in vinyl batman stickers along with the roof of the convertible being vinyl wrapped with the face of former Joker's Heath Ledger and Jack Nicholson.

Luminous wheel discs and a PA sound system in the grill have also been modified.

"My son-in-law owns a sign company in Banbury so he said he would help me do the car. The bonnet has had the paintwork changed to look like the inside of the engine too.

"It has given me motivation and something to work on. If anyone would be willing to donate when they see us out and about then that would be much appreciated."

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Man died after taking cocaine laced with an anaesthetic

A MAN died after a night out when a dodgy batch of cocaine he took was laced with a fatal amount of anaesthetic.

Ashley Neil Whittle, 26, of Brierley Hill, was found fitting in his bedroom by his mother after returning home from a night out on October 16 last year.

He was rushed to Russells Hall Hospital from his home in White City Road after taking a drug which had been mixed with lignocaine, but it was too late and he was pronounced dead on arrival.

Bonita Poole, coroner's officer, told Black Country Coroner's Court: "He was taken to Russells Hall Hospital after being found in his bedroom by his mum after a night out. He was pronounced dead at the hospital at around 3.15am.

"He had recently broken up with his girlfriend and had started going on nights out a bit more often. Cocaine and alcohol were found in his system from the toxicology reports."

By Nick Humphreys

His brother Aaron told the court that the electrical engineer had been a bit upset but had never taken drugs on another occasion as far as he was aware.

Jolly

He said: "He was a jolly person, very funny. He would do anything for you. We were very close.

"He seemed a little bit upset but he was just getting on with it, like we all do. He was just going out and having a good time. He had gone to the pub on the Thursday with his friend, they normally had a Thursday meet up. He hadn't taken drugs before that I know of."

Zafar Siddique, senior coroner for the Black Country, said: "He only had a small amount of cocaine in his blood stream, around one tenth of what you would normally consider a potentially fatal dose. He was twice the drink-drive limit but didn't have what you would consider a life-threatening amount in his system.

"What was also found in his system was lignocaine, a substance which is normally used as an anaesthetic to put people to sleep. There was 21mg of lignocaine per litre of blood. The usual amount that would be administered to put someone to sleep would be 1 to 5 mg. "

Mr Siddique continued: "It is unlikely he took it on it's own, it is more probable that it would have been mixed with the cocaine. It would have been mixed in to try and boost the cocaine, you never get it in its pure form. That is what will have stopped his heart and stopped him from breathing.

He told the family: "This is a tragic waste of a young man's life. I can't begin to imagine the grief and devastation that you must be feeling.

"Time after time I see the damaging effects on families who have lost a loved one to a drug-related death."

Campaign to save school seems lost

COSELEY School will close if councillors rubber-stamp recommendations today (Thursday). Thousands of parents battling to save the school have been left devastated by Dudley education chief Councillor Ian Cooper's comments that there is 'no alternative' to closure.

The school is set to undergo a 'phased closure', if proposals due to go before Dudley Council's cabinet are passed.

Parent Michaela Garbett, of Roseville, urged the council to rethink the move, having collected more than 2,000 signatures on a petition to keep the school open.

She argued that closure would disrupt pupils' education and put a strain on neighbouring schools, with pupils already moving to High Arcal and Dormston schools.

Mrs Garbett, who moved her daughter to High Arcal School last month, said parents feared the worse and were feeling 'very downhearted'.

Coseley East Councillor Star Anderton blasted the council comments seeming to seal closure before the formal decision had been made. She added: "I think it's wholly unfair on all the children."

Uber is no threat to us, says taxi leader

Not Uber worried – Shaz Saleem, the Chairman of Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association

THE chairman of Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association believes drivers have nothing to fear from the arrival of phone app cab business Uber in the Black Country.

It has launched services in Dudley, Wolverhampton, and Walsall which see customers download an app, allowing them to order a car directly from the nearest driver. No calls have to be made and no cash changes hands as payments are made online.

But Shaz Saleem, a spokesman for Dudley cabbies, said the traditional way of booking a car over the phone would still valued by customers.

"I think it's all hype at the moment and once that dies down I don't think it's going to affect anyone really," he said. ""We have a lot of traditional customers in Dudley and I think elsewhere in the Black Country too.

"People like to do their business over the phone because it gives them more confidence, rather than using an app or sending an email and hoping for the best."

Motorcycle race champion in road safety plea

A CHAMPION motorcycle racer from the Black Country has pleaded with motorists to watch out for riders during the busy summer months.

The better weather brings out many more motorcyclists, particularly during weekends and Bank Holidays on the popular routes from the Black Country into rural Shropshire.

Michael Rutter, a British motorcycle racer who competes in the National Superstock 1000 Championship, urged car drivers to check for motorcyclists when making manoeuvres in a bid to cut the biker toll on the region's roads.

Mr Rutter, 44, who grew up in Brierley Hill and now lives in Bridgnorth, said: "It is a tragic thing but accidents do happen. The thing for motorcyclists is to be as obvious as possible, be as colourful and bright as possible. Wear day-glo or bright colours and keep your lights on.

"For car drivers, until you have ridden a motorcycle you don't know how car drivers approach you. Car drivers need to look twice, look three times and keep on checking."

Earlier this month a motorcyclist was killed in a collision involving a car near to Rushmere Filling Station, between Bridgnorth and Six Ashes.

Hitch a ride with Catfish and co

ALBUMS

by Leon Burakowski

CATFISH and the Bottlemen seem to confirm my suspicion that scruffy leather-jacketed youths from unfashionable towns make the best rock music.

Second album **The Ride**, the first with Johnny Bond replacing Billy Bibby on guitar, sees the Llandudno quartet more than live up to the promise of their hit debut album The Balcony.

Frontman Ryan Evan 'Van' McCann sings 'I don't think things through' on swaggering melodic rocker 7 which kicks things off for a series of songs about drink-fuelled love affairs, broken hearts and jealousy.

Highlights include pounding new single Twice with its incendiary guitar, future fans' favourite Heathrow and monster hit-in-waiting Oxygen (imagine Thin Lizzy playing 10CC's Rubber Bullets, if you're old enough). Songs about teenage (or early 20s) kicks haven't sounded so good in a long time.

Corinne Bailey Rae returns six years on from her grief-stricken album The Sea, recorded after her husband's death, and ten years since she had a major hit with the bright and breezy Put Your Records On.

New album **The Heart Speaks In Whispers** is a sophisticated set, as much influenced by jazz as soul with subtle use of electronics.

In songs such as Tell Me there is a sense of optimism, tempered by experience and a certain wistfulness. Highlights include the ballad Hey I Won't Break Your Heart, potent opener The Skies Will Break and the lithe funky Green Aphrodisiac. Her soulful voice really shines on the gentle Do You Ever Think Of Me, the urbane Horse Print Dress, poignant Caramel and jazzy closer Night.

Catfish and the Bottlemen more than live up to the promise of The Balcony

The Yorkshire-born songstress will be special guest of Motown legend Lionel Richie at Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena on Tuesday, June 7.

Former lead singer of Sheffield band The Long Blondes, **Kate Jackson**, is back with a solo album, **British Road Movies**. The artist, singer and songwriter has found a perfect collaborator in former Suede guitarist Bernard Butler, who has helped create the musical moods and guitar licks to complement her hit-the-road lust for life.

Highlights include the Go-Gos meet a-Ha synth-driven 80s feel of The End of Reason, escapist anthem Wonder Feeling and the reverb drenched 60s-flavoured Lie to Me.

Guitarist Butler also features on **Fever Dream**, the third solo album from **Ben Watt**, former partner with Tracey Thorn in Everything But The Girl. EBTG specialised in chilled electronica, Watt prefers a more stripped back approach, returning to the kind of classic singer-songwriter material that the likes of Justin Hayward, Al Stewart and Elton John specialised in during the 1970s. It suits his mellow vocals and his songs are eloquent, enhanced by Butler's slightly distorted guitar motifs. Standouts include the melancholy beauty of Bricks And Wood, his duet with Marissa Nadler on New Year Of Grace, the summery, almost Chris Rea-like Faces Of My Friends, whilst Running With The Front Runners is the closest to the chilled grooves of EBTG.

Watt is in concert at the Hare and Hounds, Kings Heath, on June 10.

Tragedy and hard luck stories have long been the raw diet of country music and never sound better than when the singer has actually lived the drama. So it is that **Margo Price**, who has overcome family tragedy and financial problems (she had to pawn her wedding ring to pay for her first recording sessions), brings a sense of authenticity as well as a classic country voice to her debut **Midwest Farmer's Daughter**. But she never resorts to self-pity, always feisty on an album which encompasses ballads, honky tonk, blues and rockabilly.

Colourful show not just a dream

REVIEW

By Mark Shipp

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

WEARY and drained after a hard deadline day slog, I'm not sure I was in the mood for this. In fact, I could have made a deal with the stage hand: 'I close my eyes and you draw back the curtain.'

And while any dream would do for Joseph, mine would be that I woke up and believed I'd enjoyed the show.

But I actually did. It was vibrant, lively, spectacular and all manner of similar superlatives.

Joe McElderry took on the lead role as the boy who dared to dream and showed a good stage presence to go with his voice.

The mere mention of his name before the production had even started had some of the massed ranks whooping.

Storyline

All his songs, including the memorable Close Every Door and Any Dream Will Do, were delivered with such clarity. It is still hard to believe Phillip Schofield once made the role his own.

There was no dialogue, so the audience had to follow the storyline through the singing alone. However, it was well told.

Joseph, the favourite of Jacob's 12 sons, is given a coat of many colours, but is disowned by his brothers who sell him off as a slave and pretend he is dead.

His Egyptian master Potiphar throws him in jail over a mistaken belief of a liaison with his wife.

But when he interprets the Pharaoh's dreams and foretells great riches for the country, he become a powerful man.

Joe McElderry, who stars as Joseph at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

His brothers flock to Egypt to beg for food and forgiveness and, after witnessing their selflessness over a 'stolen' golden cup, Joseph reveals himself and a reunion is complete.

But this was certainly no Joe McElderry show. Lucy Kay, a Britain's Got Talent finalist, could certainly belt out a note and was perfect as the narrator – and is attractive to boot, while Emiliano Stamatakis, in his UK tour debut, was stunning as the Pharaoh. While supposedly playing the role as Elvis, he could easily pass as a tribute to the likes of Billy Fury or Tom Jones should the chance arise.

And then there was the Joseph choir, 33 youngsters from Stagecoach of Sutton Coldfield and Solihull, whose performance could be summed up in just one word: 'Wow!'

There was raucous applause at the end from a packed crowd, but the encore did go on a bit. Or did I just dream that?

fast theticket

Purr-fect night out

Claws out on stage
Page 25

Bev's back

Home gig – Page 25

NATIVE MONSTER
Entertainment Unleashed

For full listings see **Express & Star** every Friday

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An introduction to The Carpenters

We've Only Just Begun
Tuesday, 7.30pm
Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton
A celebration of the love songs of The Carpenters with Toni Lee (pictured) as the late great Karen Carpenter, backed by an eight-piece band.
Visit **www.grandtheatre.co.uk**

The Hunna

Tuesday, 7.30pm
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath
Expect a full house when these rising star rockers play the suburban pub venue, probably a last chance to catch them at an intimate venue with debut album 100 out in August.
Visit **hareandhoundskingsheath.co.uk**

Tom: A Story Of Tom Jones

Wednesday to Saturday
New Alexandra Theatre, B'ham
From miners' clubs in the valleys to Las Vegas, the story of the Welsh singer featuring hits from Delilah to Sex Bomb, with Kit Orton (pictured) as Jones the Voice.
Visit **www.atgtickets.com**

Joey Devries

Saturday, 6.30pm
O2 Institute 3, Digbeth, B'ham
The Fix My Heart pop star from Port Talbot, who was in X Factor boy band Overload Generation, headlines in his own right after supporting Little Mix.
Visit **www.academymusicgroup.com/o2institutebirmingham/**

ROCK & POP

Gordon Lightfoot
Tonight at 8pm - 10.15pm, £42.50 - £47.50
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Clare Maguire
Thu at 8pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

An Evening With The Dreamers
Tomorrow at 7.30pm,
Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

We've Only Just Begun A Celebration Of The Carpenters
Tue at 7.30pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

Phoenix Rising
Wed at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Joanna Gruesome
Thu at 7.30pm - 10.30pm,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

BC Camplight
Sun at 7.30pm - 10pm,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

The Bootleg Shadows
Tomorrow at 7.30pm,
Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

Dr. Feelgood & Eddie And The Hotrods
Tonight at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Wingspan: Tribute To Paul McCartney And The Beatles
Mon at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Blake
Tonight at 7.30pm,
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

Quill
Tonight at 8pm,
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Dizzy Lizzy: Thin Lizzy Tribute
Tonight at 7pm, £7
The RoadHouse Birmingham, Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

The Hunna
Tues at 7.30pm
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Joey Devries
Tomorrow at 6.30pm
O2 Institute 3, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY
Call 0121 643 0428

FOLK, COUNTRY & ACOUSTIC

Lucy Spraggan
Thu at 7pm,
Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN.
Call 01902 572090

JAZZ, BLUES SOUL & REGGAE

The Legends Of Reggae Festival 2016
Tomorrow at 10pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Bank Holiday Rock'n'blues All-day Festival
Sun at 3pm,
The RoadHouse Birmingham, Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Beverley Knight
Thu at 7pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Ian Siegal & Jimbo Mathus
Tue at 7.30pm - 11.30pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Bonnie Raitt
Mon at 7.30pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Maxwell's Quandri
Tomorrow at 4pm - 8pm,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Chris Bevington
Thu at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

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Tonight at 5pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
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CLASSICAL & OTHER GENRES

City Of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra: The Seven Ages Of Shakespeare
Wed at 7.30pm, £12.50 - £40
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Graffiti Classics
Wed at 7.30pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

The Mario Lanza Opera Prize
Tomorrow at 2pm - 4pm,
Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham City University, B3 3HG.
Call 0121 331 5901

LA Guns
Sun at 7.10pm - 11pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
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Hot 8 Brass Band
Sun at 7pm, £15
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

BICS 2015/16: Milos Karadaglic
Tonight at 7.30pm,
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

Fetty Wap
Tonight at 7pm,
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

CLUBBING

Viva Music Showcase
Sun - Mon at 12pm - 6am,
The Rainbow, Digbeth, Birmingham, B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

Cirque Du Soul
Tue - Wed at 10pm - 5am,
The Rainbow, Digbeth, Birmingham, B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

We Are Lizards
Tonight - Tomorrow at 9pm - 3am,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Propaganda
Tonight at 10.30pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Youandewan
Sun - Mon at 9pm - 3am,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Holiday vs Love The Life
Sun - Mon at 9pm - 3am,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Young Culture
Tomorrow - Sun at 9pm - 3am,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Elrow Birmingham: The Trip
Sun - Mon at 2pm - 12am,
The Rainbow, Digbeth, Birmingham, B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

RElapse
Tonight - Tomorrow at 9pm - 2am,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
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COMEDY

Thursday Night Comedy Carousel
Thu at 8pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

Jethro: 40 Years The Joker
Wed at 7.30pm,
Kidderminster Town Hall, DY10 1DB.
Call 01562 732158

The Best In Live Stand-up Comedy
Tonight at 7.45pm, Tomorrow at 7.45pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

Aurie Styla: Working… Hardly!
Tonight at 7.30pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

Comedy In The Met
Tonight at 8pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

THEATRE

King Lear
Tonight at 7.30pm, Tomorrow at 2pm, 7.30pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

BalletBoyz: Life
Tomorrow at 7.30pm,
Lichfield Garrick, Castle Dyke, Lichfield, West Midlands, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

Crazy For You: The Viv Kelly Youth Theatre Group
Thu at 7.30pm,
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

The Sound Of Music
Tonight at 7.30pm - 10pm,
Tomorrow at 7.30pm - 10pm,
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

Mister Maker & The Shapes Live Tour
Tomorrow at 1.30pm, 4pm,
Sun at 10am, 1pm, £15.50 - £17.39
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Daughter Of The Forest
Sun at 6pm,
The Drum, Aston on Carrant, Birmingham, B6 4UU.
Call 0121 333 2400

Tom
Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 2.30pm, 7.30pm,
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

The Sound Of Music
Tonight at 7.30pm, Tomorrow at 2.30pm, 7.30pm,
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

Cats: The Musical
Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm, 7.30pm,
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Made In Dagenham: West Bromwich Operatic Society
Tonight at 7.30pm, Tomorrow at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, £16 - £22
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Tell Me On A Sunday
Thu at 7.30pm, £24.50 - £28.50
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

Greg Foot Presents Caution: Safety Goggles Required
Tonight at 7.30pm,
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

Pasha Kovalev: It's All About You
Tonight at 7.30pm,
Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

Jackie The Musical
Tonight at 7.30pm, Tomorrow at 2.30pm, 7.30pm,
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Shadowlands
Tue at 7pm, Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm, 7.30pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Cats lovers will be feline groovy

ANDREW Lloyd Webber's record-breaking 2015 Olivier award nominated musical Cats returns comes to Birmingham direct from its sell-out seasons at the London Palladium for one week only.

Adapted from TS Eliot's 'Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats', Cats returned to the West End in December last year, with a sell-out run at the London Palladium, reuniting the original creative team – director Trevor Nunn, associate director and choreographer Gillian Lynne, designer John Napier and composer Lloyd Webber.

Cats is a dazzling blend of fantasy, drama and romance about one special night of the year when all the Jellicle cats meet at the Jellicle Ball where their wise leader, Old Deuteronomy, will announce which of them will be reborn.

The show, which first opened in the West End in 1981, is full of amazing choreography and memorable songs, including the timeless Memory, sung by glamour cat fallen on hard times Grizabella.

Recently in the West End Grizabella was played by Wolverhampton's Beverley Knight and at Birmingham Hippodrome, from Monday to Saturday, the role is due to be played by Filipino actress and singer, Joanna Ampil, former star of Miss Saigon.

Victoria the White Cat in a scene from Andrew Lloyd Webber's Cats

Bev's back in Soulville

WOLVERHAMPTON-BORN Queen of UK Soul Beverley Knight is looking forward to a 'sweaty, up-tempo' homecoming gig in Wolverhampton tonight (Thursday) as part of her 2016 UK tour, which also includes a concert in Birmingham next week.

The star, who recently turned 43, can't wait to perform at the Slade Rooms and admitted it would have been 'ridiculous' for her not to take to the stage in front of her biggest fans.

She will be entertaining with songs from her new album, Soulville, which she recorded in Memphis and is released on June 10, as well as her hits and songs from the West End shows she has appeared in.

The former Woodfield and Highfields pupil said: "It was going to do my head in, not doing a show in Wolverhampton. It would have been the first time ever on one of my tours that I didn't play there, which would have been ridiculous.

"It's just been finding somewhere to play with the Civic Hall being closed for refurbishments. But the Slade Rooms became available. I'm really looking forward to it.

"It's a smaller venue so it's going to be more of a sweaty club, up-tempo gig. That's what I'm planning for it. It'll be a mixture of songs from the new album and older ones, as well as a bit of what I've been up to in the West End."

She added: "It's always a good excuse to go home and see everybody as well. People are so supportive back home. I try to get back to Wolverhampton as much as I can, I've got a big family and there's normally someone's birthday, so that's a good excuse.

"It's a bit more difficult when you're in West End shows to get the time away, so I'm making the most of not being in a show at the moment."

The soul legend, who was made an MBE for her creative and charity work in 2007, is looking forward to giving Wolverhampton a sneak peek of material from her new album, her first in four years. She added: "I'm just so thrilled with it, it's a proper soul experience."

Beverley plays the Symphony Hall on Thursday, June 2.

Mothers reunion celebrates venue

BACK in the late 1960s the hippest rock venue in Brum was found above a furniture store on Erdington High Street.

Among the acts that performed, and sometimes recorded, at Mothers were Pink Floyd, The Who (performing Tommy) and a local band called Black Sabbath, who soon became known for their flamboyant frontman.

After some 400 gigs, the club closed in 1971, and 45 years on Mothers veterans the Steve Gibbons Band, Terry Reid, Edgar Broughton and Del Bromham from Stray are celebrating the venue at the Robin 2 in Bilston on Saturday night.

Tickets are £21.50 (£19.50 advance).

Shadowlands play at Birmingham Rep

THE critically-acclaimed production of William Nicholson's moving play, Shadowlands, comes to Birmingham Repertory Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday (June 4).

It examines the private life of celebrated author CS Lewis, author of the Narnia stories, and his affair with feisty American poet, Joy Davidman.

The cast of Shadowlands is led by Stephen Boxer (Humans, The Iron Lady, Doctors) as CS Lewis, Denis Lill (The Royal, Only Fools And Horses) as Major WH Lewis and Amanda Ryan (Shameless) as Joy Davidman. Tickets cost from £13.50 to £35, call 0121 236 4455.

Eighth stage for Slam Dunk Festival

ROCK festival Slam Dunk has added an eighth stage for its tenth anniversary, being held in the Genting Arena at Birmingham NEC on Sunday.

The extra stage will highlight solo and acoustic acts and will be headlined by Bryce Avary of The Rocket Summer.

The festival, which has moved from Wolverhampton to Brum due to the refurbishment of the Civic Hall, will feature more than 45 acts – including from Las Vegas headliners Panic! at the Disco, 2 Tone legends The Beat, Of Mice & Men, New Found Glory, The Story So Far, Qemists, Zebrahead, Every Time I Die, and Mallory Knox.

Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, May 26, 2016

CHOICE

Luke Pasqualino

The Musketeers (BBC1, 9.30pm)
New series. In war-torn France, the battle-scarred swordsmen reunite to rescue orphans from brutal mercenary Lucien Grimaud. Meanwhile, a sinister new battle awaits in the form of corrupt governor Feron. Matthew McNulty and Rupert Everett join the cast, with Luke Pasqualino, Tom Burke, Howard Charles and Santiago Cabrera starring as d'Artagnan, Athos, Porthos and Aramis. Based on the characters created by Alexandre Dumas.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry Cooks. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **1.30** Gymnastics: Men's European Championships. Live coverage of the men's team competition. **4.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.00** Can't Touch This. Obstacle course game show, presented by Zoe Ball and Ashley Banjo. **5.50** BBC News.

6.00 Regional Programme.

6.10 Pointless Celebrities. A "law and order" special of the quiz, with Helen Fraser, Victoria Alcock, Roberta Taylor, Chris Ellison, Arthur Bostrom, Mina Anwar, Dominic Littlewood and Matt Allwright. Last in the series.

7.00 Michael McIntyre's Big Show. The comedian hosts his final evening of entertainment and introduces music by All Saints, while Alex Jones hands over her mobile phone in Celebrity Send To All. Last in the series.

7.50 The National Lottery: In It to Win It. Dale Winton hosts the quiz show in which five contestants answer questions to scoop a big cash prize. Includes the National Lottery draws with a performance by Samantha Barks.

8.40 Casualty. Big Mac struggles to hide the toll his addiction is taking and steals some painkillers, while Robyn is determined to bring David out of his shell.

9.30 The Musketeers. New series. The battle-scarred swordsmen reunite to rescue orphans from a brutal mercenary. Matthew McNulty and Rupert Everett join the cast.

10.30 BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.

10.50 Peter Kay's Comedy Shuffle. A final selection from the career of the comedian, actor, writer and director, featuring Peter appearing with Catherine Tate's Nan as well as his observations on family weddings and more of Max and Paddy's misadventures. Last in the series. (R)

11.20 Live at the Apollo. Greg Davies hosts another session of stand-up at Hammersmith Apollo in west London, warming up the audience for Hal Cruttenden and Simon Evans. (R)

12.05 Film: The Tuxedo. (2002) **1.40** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.45** BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **7.30 Film:** Death of a Scoundrel. (1956) **9.25 Film:** The Glass Bottom Boat. (1966) **11.10** Natural World. (R) **12.00** The Hairy Bikers: Everyday Gourmets. (R) **1.00 Film:** Father of the Bride. (1950) Comedy, starring Spencer Tracy and Elizabeth Taylor. **2.30** Flog It! (R) **3.20** The Great British Sewing Bee. (R) **4.20** The Great British Sewing Bee. (R) **5.20** This Week's World.

6.00 Golf: PGA Highlights. Action from the BMW PGA Championship, the European Tour event taking place on the West Course at the Wentworth Club in Surrey. South Korea's An Byeong-hun triumphed here in 2015, with his overall score of 21-under-par ensuring he finished five strokes clear of his nearest competitors.

7.00 Nick Baker's Wild West. The naturalist explores the wildlife-rich wetlands of south-west England, including two stunning Somerset reserves. Last in the series. Postponed from May 20.

7.30 RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2016. Monty Don and Joe Swift present a look back at the highlights of the past week at the horticultural showcase.

8.30 Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring and the platoon are asked to provide a guard of honour for a royal train carrying George VI that is passing through Walmington-on-Sea, but another locomotive confounds their plans. Classic comedy first broadcast in 1973, starring Arthur Lowe, John Le Mesurier and Clive Dunn. (R)

9.00 The Secret of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony. Conductor John Eliot Gardiner looks at the story behind the famous piece of music, the opening notes of which are among the most recognisable in history. Gardiner investigates what the German composer was trying to express when he wrote the piece, and looks at the exciting and dangerous times that shaped Beethoven both personally and creatively.

10.30 Artsnight. (R)

11.00 Film: The Prestige. (2006) Two Victorian magicians become bitter rivals as one becomes obsessed with the secret to the other's greatest illusion. Mystery thriller, starring Hugh Jackman.

1.00 Film: The Disappearance of Alice Creed. (2009) **2.35** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.45** The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **12.05** ITV News; Weather. **12.10** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.15 Film:** Murder on the Orient Express. (1974) Agatha Christie mystery, starring Albert Finney. **3.50 Film:** Kindergarten Cop. (1990) Comedy, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger.

6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.10 ITV News; Weather.

6.25 Bang on the Money. Rickie Haywood-Williams and Melvin Odoom host the game show in which two teams of friends must battle it out to hit a specific target number "bang on" in a series of physical and mental challenges. At the end of the contest, the most successful group could win up to £40,000. This week's teams are the Suits in the City from London and Team Samanda from the Wirral.

7.30 Britain's Got Talent: Live Final. After weeks of tough auditions and five fiercely competitive semi-finals, the national talent search comes to a close as the remaining acts perform one last time. The hopefuls all have one simple aim – to win a coveted slot at this year's Royal Variety Performance and get their hands on the £250,000 cash prize. All they have to do is impress the voting public, as the opinions of judges Simon Cowell, David Walliams, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon count for nothing – who wins is entirely down to the viewers at home. Plus, to celebrate 10 series of the show, tonight also sees a special "best of" performance orchestrated by Diversity's Ashley Banjo. Presented by Ant and Dec. Last in the series.

10.00 Let's Do It: A Tribute to Victoria Wood. Celebration of the late comedian's work. (R)

11.00 ITV News; Weather.

11.15 UEFA Champions League Final Highlights. Real Madrid v Atletico Madrid.

12.20 Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Cycling: Velothon Wales. **7.05** Motor Sport: Mini Challenge. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.00** The Superhumans Show. **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Haydock Park and Chester. **4.15** A Place in the Sun. **5.15** Channel 4 News. **5.45** Formula 1: Monaco Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights.

7.30 Guy Martin: Last Flight of the Vulcan Bomber. The mechanic joins a select crew of engineers working to prepare the last Vulcan bomber that is capable of flight for a farewell tour of the UK. The programme features contributions from former crew members, who recall its service in conflicts from the 1950s to the Falklands, as well as serving as Britain's nuclear deterrent. (R)

9.00 Film: Red 2. (2013) Former CIA agent Frank Moses reunites his squad of retired operatives for a vital mission. A devastatingly powerful new weapon has been stolen, and it falls to Frank's team to retrieve it – which means facing lethal assassins, terrorists and corrupt government officials out to steal the device. Action thriller sequel, starring Bruce Willis, Helen Mirren and John Malkovich.

11.10 Film: End of Days. (1999) A former police officer protects an innocent woman from the Devil, who plans to bring about Armageddon. Supernatural thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Gabriel Byrne.

1.30 Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Scott organises a surprise for John Paul at The Folly, while Sienna feels under pressure. Elsewhere, Darren bets on how long Trevor and Grace's marriage will last. (R) **3.35** Posh Pawnbrokers. Dan takes his sister to test drive a monster truck, Wendy comes across a handbag that could be very valuable, and Larry and Neil examine some works of art bought in a pub. (R) **4.30** Win It Cook It. Simon Rimmer and guest judge Rachel Allen challenge the competitors to make a meal from cocktail sausages, ketchup and bananas. **4.55** Fifteen to One. Sandi Toksvig hosts the general knowledge quiz, in which 15 contestants test themselves against their rivals. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **9.30** The Saturday Show Live. **11.30** Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **3.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **4.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **5.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

6.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. High Court enforcement agents Paul Bohill and Steve Pinner are in Birmingham on a potentially dangerous, full-scale eviction of a large traveller community. (R)

6.55 5 News Weekend.

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v Sri Lanka. Highlights from the second day of the second Test in a three-match series, which takes place at Emirates Durham International Cricket Ground. Presented by Mark Nicholas, who also commentates alongside Michael Vaughan, Geoffrey Boycott, and Simon Hughes.

8.00 NCIS: Los Angeles. A man who stole a car and ran down and killed one of his pursuers before escaping is identified as Walton Flynn, an ex-marine now working for a private security firm in Iraq. Sam and Callen learn that the businessman he had been hired to protect had been murdered and that the people chasing him were hired by his employers to dish out their own form of justice. Crime drama, starring Chris O'Donnell and LL Cool J. (R)

9.00 NCIS. DiNozzo investigates a murder at the military academy he once attended, after a murdered marine and alumni of the school is found clutching a photo of a current student. Meanwhile, Bishop and her husband invite the team out for a special dinner. Starring Mark Harmon.

10.00 The Championship Final: Football League Tonight. Sheffield Wednesday v Hull City. Kelly Cates and George Riley present action from the Championship play-off final at Wembley Stadium.

10.45 The 80s: The Best of Bad TV. A look back at memorable TV highlights from the 1980s, focusing on the best and worst that the decade had to offer. (R)

12.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **4.00** Secrets of the Valley of the Kings. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Venice **8.00** Hidden Killers of the Post-War Home **9.00** The Disappearance **10.40** Mumford & Sons at Radio 1's Big Weekend **11.40** Pop Charts Britannia: 60 Years of the Top 10 **1.10** Tales from the Tour Bus: Rock 'n' Roll on the Road **2.10** Top of the Pops: 1981 **3.25** Sounds of the Eighties **3.50** Close

ITV2
11.20 The Cube **12.25 Film:** A Little Princess (1995) **1.25** FYI Daily **1.30 Film:** A Little Princess (1995) **2.20** Scorpion **3.20 Film:** Uncle Buck (1989) **4.20** FYI Daily **4.25 Film:** Uncle Buck (1989) **5.10 Film:** The Smurfs 2 (2013) **6.10** FYI Daily **6.15 Film:** The Smurfs 2 (2013) **7.15 Film:** Hulk (2003) **8.20** FYI Daily **8.25 Film:** Hulk (2003) **10.00** Britain's Got More Talent **11.00** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.25** The Cleveland Show **2.20** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.40** Teleshopping **5.40** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
12.35 The Return of Sherlock Holmes **2.55** Foyle's War **4.55** Rosemary & Thyme **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Foyle's War **10.00** Lewis **12.00** Trial & Retribution **1.05** Northern Lights **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
9.00 Cycling: Tour Series Highlights **10.00** Premiership Rugby Union **11.00 Film:** The Long Kiss Goodnight (1996) **12.10** FYI Daily **12.15 Film:** The Long Kiss Goodnight (1996) **1.25** Hell on Wheels **2.25** Tommy Cooper **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine **12.30** How I Met Your Mother **1.30** The Goldbergs **3.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **4.00 Film:** Maid in Manhattan (2002) **6.05** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Battle: Los Angeles (2011) **11.20** Gogglebox **1.30** The 2016 Billboard Music Awards **3.20** Gogglebox **4.10** Rude(ish) Tube **4.35** Revenge

Film4
11.00 Marmaduke (2010) **1.00** Ice Age: Continental Drift (2012) **2.45** Tooth Fairy (2010) **4.50** Sister Act (1992) **6.50** The Golden Compass (2007) **9.00** The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones (2013) A teenager discovers she is part of a race of magical beings tasked with defending the world from demons. Fantasy adventure, with Lily Collins. **11.35** Wanted (2008) Action adventure, starring James McAvoy and Angelina Jolie. **1.45** Chronicle (2012) Sci-fi thriller, starring Dane DeHaan. **3.30** Close

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CHOICE

Chris Evans

Top Gear (BBC2, 8pm)

New series. The motoring show returns with new hosts Chris Evans and Matt LeBlanc, featuring test drives, spectacular stunts and reports on the latest models. Joining the new presenters are commentator Eddie Jordan, world record-breaking German racing driver Sabine Schmitz, renowned motoring journalist Chris Harris, car reviewer and TV presenter Rory Reid, and of course, the Stig. Things get under way as Chris takes the Dodge Viper ACR to the home of Top Gun in Nevada to battle it out against Sabine, who is behind the wheel of a Chevrolet Corvette Z06. Matt LeBlanc tackles the wilds of Morocco in the Ariel Nomad, before returning to British soil to take on Evans in a gruelling UK v USA challenge.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Wanted Down Under. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.00** Lose Weight for Love. (R) **4.00** Nature's Epic Journeys. (R) **5.00** Points of View. **5.15** Songs of Praise. **5.50** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.35 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 Countryfile. John Craven races a hill-runner to the summit of Snowdon, and meets volunteers trying to save the area's osprey. Anita Rani puts on her wetsuit for a spot of in-land surfing, and Joe Crowley meets an artist whose work has dominated the Snowdonia landscape. Plus, Tom Heap meets campaigners from both sides of the EU Referendum debate, asking David Cameron and Boris Johnson why "rural Britain" should vote with them. Including Weather For The Week Ahead.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the team return to Tredegar House near Newport. Among the finds are a locket that was a gift from Queen Victoria, a device used for creating tattoos, a classic car, a cigar cutter commemorating the opening of the Newport transporter bridge, 19th-century advertisements for public executions, a versatile tiara and a miniature font with a sad history. (R)

9.00 Wallander. The detective investigates when a body is found half-buried in a swamp. Visiting her home, Wallander discovers signs of an intruder and that the dead woman's daughter is missing. The return of a lost love distracts him from the case at hand, as he encounters a gang of bikers that have been causing trouble in the area and begins to suspect he is being watched.

10.30 BBC News.

10.50 Regional Programme.

11.00 Room 101 – Extra Storage. Extended edition, with Des O'Connor, Adrian Chiles and Jameela Jamil discussing their pet hates. Last in the series. (R)

11.40 Film: Grosse Pointe Blank. (1997) Black comedy drama, starring John Cusack.

1.20 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.25** BBC News.

BBC2

6.35 Great British Garden Revival. (R) **7.35** This Farming Life. (R) **8.35** Countryfile. (R) **9.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** The Hairy Bikers' Asian Adventure. (R) **12.00** Tom Kerridge's Proper Pub Food. (R) **12.30** Rowing World Cup. **2.30** Athletics: Diamond League. (R) **3.30** Gymnastics: Men's European Championships.

6.00 Golf: PGA Highlights. Hazel Irvine presents action from the final round of the BMW PGA Championship, the European Tour event taking place on the West Course at the Wentworth Club in Surrey.

7.00 Rugby Union. England v Wales. Highlights of the friendly encounter at Twickenham, where the sides warmed up for their respective summer tours of Australia and New Zealand.

8.00 Top Gear. New series. The motoring show returns with new hosts Chris Evans and Matt LeBlanc, with guest appearances by Jesse Eisenberg and Gordon Ramsay.

9.00 Battle of Jutland: The Navy's Bloodiest Day. Dan Snow marks the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Jutland, which ended in an inconclusive result, but may have been crucial to the eventual outcome of the First World War.

10.05 QI XL. Stephen Fry invites David Mitchell, Sue Perkins and Sami Shah to join regular panellist Alan Davies as he meanders about some places that start with the letter M. (R)

10.35 Stupid Man, Smart Phone. Russell Kane and singer-songwriter Conor Maynard try to survive the dense, unforgiving Costa Rican jungle, using only their smartphones as survival aids.

11.25 Flat TV. New series. Comedy following the exploits of two TV-obsessed slackers, beginning as the duo anxiously await the delivery of a parcel. Starring Tom Rosenthal and Naz Osmanoglu.

11.45 Later – with Jools Holland. Extended edition, featuring performances by the Last Shadow Puppets, Bonnie Raitt, Ballake Sissoko and Vincent Segal, Nao, Dinosaur Jr and Zucchero. (R)

12.50 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **1.45** Holby City. (R) **2.45** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.45** The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **8.00** Teen Titans Go! (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Griff's Great Britain. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.55** ITV News; Weather. **12.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **2.05** Britain's Got Talent: Live Final. (R) **4.35** Midsomer Murders. (R)

6.30 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.40 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Where Are They Now? The Reunions. Stars of TV, films and the music industry reassemble the acts that helped them find fame, including the Bay City Rollers, Musical Youth, East 17 and cast of the Oxo advertisements.

8.00 The British Soap Awards 2016. The stars of some of the nation's favourite shows gather at London's Hackney Empire Theatre to celebrate some of soap-land's most dynamic plotlines of the past year. The casts of Coronation Street, Doctors, EastEnders, Emmerdale and Hollyoaks all assemble to discover who will be going home with one of the 15 covetted awards, as voted for by members of the viewing public. Over the past 12 months, Britain's soaps have dealt with everything from Stacey's post-partum psychosis in EastEnders to bad-boy Callum's murder in a live episode of Coronation Street, the unmasking of Hollyoaks' notorious Gloved Hand Killer, and yet another air crash in Emmerdale. Philip Schofield presides as a parade of famous faces hand out the trophies, which include gongs for the Best Actor and Actress, Villain of the Year, Best Newcomer, Scene of the Year and Best On Screen Partnership.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 Perspectives: The Great American Love Song with Nicky Campbell. The broadcaster reveals his passion for the music of 1920s and 1930s New York, choosing six timeless love songs from the era. (R)

11.20 Premiership Rugby Union.

12.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **4.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

7.05 Monaco Historic Grand Prix 2016. **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30 Film:** Step Up 2: The Streets. (2008) Drama, starring Briana Evigan. **2.25** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **3.25** Location, Location, Location. (R) **4.30** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. **5.30** Channel 4 News. **5.45** Formula 1: Monaco Grand Prix Highlights.

8.00 Yeti: Man, Myth or Beast? Scientist Mark Evans enlists the aid of an international team of geneticists as he sets out to determine, once and for all, whether there is a rational explanation for the legendary Tibetan yeti. Mark's investigation centres on two competing theories, the first being that the "Abominable Snowman" is in fact a species of "human" marginalised by the rise of homo sapiens, the other stating that the yeti is some form of previously undiscovered bear. Renowned mountaineer Reinhold Messner – who claims to have encountered a yeti – weighs in on the subject, subscribing to the latter theory, while Professor Rasmus Neilsen shares his research into the Denisovans, a long-lost species of human with DNA connections to modern Tibetans, which may have inspired Himalayan folk tales of "wild men" who would later become known as "yetis".

9.00 Channel 4's Comedy Gala 2016. So You Think You're Funny 2012 winner Aisling Bea, The Last Leg's Josh Widdicombe and Alex Brooker, former Harry Potter actor Warwick Davis and Channel 4's very own "Chatty Man" Alan Carr are among the comedy stars taking part in the seventh annual Comedy Gala at London's O2 arena. Also taking to the stage this year are Charlie Baker, Kevin Bridges, Nathan Caton, Hal Cruttenden, Rob Beckett, Joel Dommett, Kerry Godliman, Lee Nelson, Russell Kane, Sean Lock, Shappi Khorsandi, Seann Walsh, Tom Allen and Zoe Lyons, along with musician Jake Bugg. As ever, all profits from ticket and DVD sales of Gala will go to Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity.

11.30 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts. (R)

12.30 Film: The Two Faces of January. (2014) **2.05** Come Dine with Me. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.35** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.45** Tickety Toc. (R) **6.55** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.10** Pets. **7.15** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.25** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.40** Little Princess. (R) **7.50** Pip Ahoy! (R) **8.05** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **9.00** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.10** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. (R) **10.55** Now That's Funny! (R) **11.55 Film:** Holy Man. (1998) **2.05 Film:** Bride Wars. (2009) **3.50 Film:** The Princess Diaries. (2001)

6.00 Kitten's Got Talent. Internet clips of cats performing physical feats or demonstrating lightning reactions, sporting and athletic skills, super intelligence or bravery. (R)

6.55 5 News Weekend.

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v Sri Lanka. Highlights from the third day of the second Test in a three-match series, which takes place at Emirates Durham International Cricket Ground.

8.00 Egypt: Secrets of the Sphinx. Experts in various fields share their theories on the Great Sphinx of Giza, while CGI is used to recreate what the giant statue would have looked like when it was originally built.

9.00 Film: Hercules. (2014) Premiere. The son of a Greek god is sold into slavery by his evil stepfather, but escapes to reclaim his rightful kingdom. Mythological adventure, with Kellan Lutz and Gaia Weiss. Includes 5 News at 10pm.

11.00 League One Final: Football League Tonight. Walsall or Barnsley v Millwall or Bradford City. George Riley and Kelly Cates present action from the League One play-off final at Wembley Stadium.

11.45 Film: Crank: High Voltage. (2009) A hitman pursues a mobster who took his heart and replaced it with a machine that requires constant charging up. Action thriller sequel, starring Jason Statham and Amy Smart.

1.25 SuperCasino. **3.10** The KKK: Behind The Mask. (R) **4.00** Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R) **4.50** Nick's Quest. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Playing Beethoven's Fifth **7.45** Mozart Uncovered **8.00** Ballrooms and Ballerinas: Dance at the BBC **9.00** Coldplay Live at Radio 1's Big Weekend **10.00** Biggest Band Break Ups and Make Ups **11.00** Damien Hirst and Jeff Koons Side by Side: The Interview **11.30** The Last Journey of the Magna Carta King **12.30** World War Two: 1945 & the Wheelchair President **2.00** Going Going Gone: Nick Broomfield's Disappearing Britain **3.00** Ballrooms and Ballerinas: Dance at the BBC **4.00** Close

ITV2

1.35 The Hot Desk: Caroline Flack **1.45 Film:** Beethoven (1992) **2.50** FYI Daily **2.55 Film:** Beethoven (1992) **3.35 Film:** The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie (2004) **4.35** FYI Daily **4.40 Film:** The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie (2004) **5.20 Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **6.20** FYI Daily **6.25 Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **7.10 Film:** Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous (2005) **8.10** FYI Daily **8.15 Film:** Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous (2005) **9.30** Love Island: We Know What You Did Last Summer **10.00** Family Guy **12.00** American Dad! **12.55** The Cleveland Show **1.50** Safeword **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV3

12.20 Foyle's War **2.20 Film:** Columbo: Swan Song (1974) **4.30 Film:** Doc Hollywood (1991) **5.40** FYI Daily **5.45 Film:** Doc Hollywood (1991) **6.30** Rosemary & Thyme **8.00** Lewis **10.05 Film:** Good Will Hunting (1997) **11.10** FYI Daily **11.15 Film:** Good Will Hunting (1997) **12.45** Secret Smile **2.05** Blue Murder **2.55** May the Best House Win **4.40** On the Buses **5.05** Judge Judy

ITV4

10.05 Film: Police Academy (1984) **10.55 Film:** The Chronicles of Riddick (2004) **12.00** FYI Daily **12.05 Film:** The Chronicles of Riddick (2004) **1.15** Minder **2.20** Tommy Cooper **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

2.00 The Goldbergs **3.30 Film:** Rio (2011) **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Tattoo Fixers **11.00** The Inbetweeners **12.10** Gogglebox **2.15** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.00** New Girl **3.35** Hollyoaks

Film4

11.00 The Lost World (1960) **1.00** Parental Guidance (2012) **3.05** Catch That Kid (2004) **4.50** Big (1988) **6.55** Field of Dreams (1989) **9.00** RoboCop (2014) **11.20** Law Abiding Citizen (2009) **1.40** Damsels in Distress (2011)

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Sedgley
St Chads & All Saints Social Club
High Holborn, Dudley Road
5pm and 7pm
Tel: Gaz 07517 675787

Norton
The Scout Hut, Kempton Way
Off Heath Farm Road, 9.30am
Tel: Marie 01384 893001

Wordsley
Richardson Hall
Lawnswood Road 5pm & 7pm
Tel Ian : 07970 147592

Thorns Primary School
Thorns Road, Quarry Bank
5pm and 7pm
Tel Lisa: 07986 673899

Dudley Wood
Dudley Wood Methodist Church
Quarry Road 9.30am
Tel: Lisa 07986 673899

TUESDAY

Gornal Wood
Himley Road Methodist Church Himley Road (Large Car Park at rear via chapel walk) 9.30am
Tel Becki: 07986 407934

Norton
Gig Mill Primary School
The Broadway, 7pm
Tel: kelly 07857 244854

Wordsley
Richardson Hall
Lawnswood Road 10am
Tel Ian : 07970147592

Woodsetton
Bramford Primary School
Park Road 6.00pm and 7.45pm
Tel Louise : 07967 624573

Gornal
Zoar Methodist Church
Abbey Road 5pm and 7pm
Tel Sue : 01384 211425

Wollaston
St James C of E Primary School
Kingsway 7pm
Tel Jo : 07725 987340

Pedmore
Hobgreen Primary School
Pedmore Fields 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Paula 07846 847068

Dudley (Wrensnest)
Wrensnest Community Centre
Summer Road 10am
Tel Louise : 07967 624573

Norton
The Scout Hut, Kempton Way,
off Heath Farm Road 9.30am
Tel Caroline : 01562 888315

Amblecote
Peters Hill Primary School
Peters Hill Road 6pm and 7.30pm
Tel Lynne : 01384 455427

Bromley / Kingswinford
Dingle Community Centre
Madeley Road 5 pm & 7 pm
Tel Diane : 07974 657589

WEDNESDAY

Kingswinford
British Legion
Summerhill Road 3.30pm
5pm and 6.30pm
Tel Ann : 07787 186259

Brockmoor
Brockmoor Community Centre
Pensnett Road 9.30am and 11.30am
Tel Ian : 01384 827999

Amblecote
Amblecote Primary School
School Drive 5.30pm and 7.15pm
Tel Caroline : 01562 888315

NEW GROUP

Pedmore
Hobgreen Primary School
Hobgreen Rd, Pedmore
5.30pm
Tel: Paula 07846 847068

Stourbridge / Oldswinford
St Marys Church Hall
Rectory Road 4pm 5.30pm
and 7.30pm
Tel Kerry : 01384 833812

Brierley Hill
Withymoore Primary School
Gayfield Avenue 7pm
Tel Lynne : 01384 455427

Lower Gornal
The Straits Primary School
Milton Cresant 7pm
Tel Marion : 07887 594344

Upper Gornal
Upper Gornal Methodist Church
Spills Meadow off Kent Street 9.30am
Tel Lynn : 07963 539384

Dudley / Upper Gornal
Bishop Milner RC School
Burton Road 7pm
Tel Sue : 01902 882323

THURSDAY

Dudley
Central Methodist Church
Cross Street 5pm and 7pm
Tel:Sarah 07837 950797

Pensnett
Community Centre,
High Street, 4pm and 6pm
Tel: Gill 01384 830929

Sedgley / Upper Gornal
St Chads and all Saints Social Club
High Holborn, Dudley Road 5pm and 7pm
Tel Sue : 01902 882323

Brierley Hill
Nine Locks Community Centre
Hill Street 9.15am
Tel Jill : 01384 830929

Dudley
Central Methodist Church
Cross Street 10am 12noon
Tel:Sue 01384 211425

Hagley
Hagley Primary School
Park Road 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Paula 07846 847068

NEW CONSULTANT

Hagley
Hagley Primary School
Park Road
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Terry 07807 028308

Hagley
West One
159 Worcester Road
9.30am
Tel: Charlotte 07565 659357

Cradley
Netherend Neighbourhood Centre
Mogul Lane
Cradley
5.15pm and 7.15pm
Tel: Amanda 07862 274058

Stourbridge
Greenfield Primary School
Hill Street 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel Marie : 01384 893001

FRIDAY

Sedgley
Sedgley Community Centre,
Ladies Walk
(Access via the Priory) 9.30 am
Tel Gareth: 07517 675787

Stourbridge
The Bonded Warehouse
Canal Street 9.30am
Tel Jo: 07725 987340

Kingswinford
St Marys Church Hall
The Villiage 8.30am and 10.30am
Tel Sue : 07825 354224

SATURDAY

Lower Gornal
Roberts Primary School
Robert Street 8.30am and 10.30am
Tel Sarah : 07837 950797

Hawbush / Brierley Hill
Oakfield Community Centre
Brettell Lane 7.30am, 9.30am
and 11.15am
Tel Jo : 07725 987340

Cradley
Netherend Centre
Mogul Lane
9am and 10.30am
Tel: Amanda 07862 274058

Cradley
Netherend Neighbourhood Centre
Mogul Lane
Cradley
8.45am and 10.45am
Tel: Amanda 07862 274058

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
The Class of 92, ITV, 10.15pm
Documentary telling the story of six of Manchester United's most successful players - David Beckham, Nicky Butt, Ryan Giggs, Paul Scholes and Phil and Gary Neville. The film follows their rise from playing for the club's youth team to forming part of a squad that would win the European Cup. (2013)

TUESDAY
Columbo: Any Old Port in a Storm, ITV, 11.10pm
A vineyard owner's financial security is jeopardised when his playboy younger brother threatens to sell the family winery. He resorts to killing his sibling and rigging the death scene to look like a scuba-diving accident. However, the crumpled cop sees through the ruse and in the process reveals he is something of a wine buff himself. Detective drama, with Peter Falk, Donald Pleasence and Julie Harris. (1973)

Fright Night, Friday, BBC1, 11.55pm

WEDNESDAY
Stranger in the House, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Premiere. A young woman suspects her scheming step-mother of murdering her father to get her hands on her inheritance. Thriller, starring Emmanuelle Vaugier and Jordana Largy. (2016)

THURSDAY
Le Week-End, Channel 4, 9pm
A couple decide to celebrate their 30th anniversary in Paris, where they spent their honeymoon, in the hope that returning to the site of happier times will revive the failing relationship. The holiday leads to an encounter with a prosperous old friend, who invites them to a dinner party that changes their outlook on life. Romantic comedy drama, starring Jim Broadbent, Lindsay Duncan and Jeff Goldblum. (2013)

FRIDAY
Fright Night, BBC1, 11.55pm
A teenager realises his new neighbour is a vampire, but cannot convince anyone of the danger they are in. He turns to a foul-mouthed magician with a horror-themed Las Vegas show to help him slay the bloodsucker before he murders the entire neighbourhood. Comedy horror remake, with Anton Yelchin and Colin Farrell. (2011)

PICK OF THE WEEK

Looking at the benefits of the Welfare system

Are single mothers receiving benefits living the life of Riley? Or is it more a case of living on the breadline?

Single mum-of-two Myleene Klass is turning investigator for this new documentary in which she hopes to find out what parents on benefits are spending their cash on.

Myleene is never far from the public eye as a TV presenter and performer, but sees being one of Britain's two million single parents as her most important job.

However, she struggles with a stigma she feels is attached to the single-mother status and looks to uncover why single mums feel like they get such a hard time.

"When I read the headlines about single mums on benefits, living the high life, refusing to work, it makes me, like everyone else, furious.

"These stories do nothing to help the image of single parents everywhere, leaving [us] all feeling tarred with the same brush.

"So I want to find out the truth behind the headlines."

Myleene starts her journey by speaking to 'Welfare Queen' Marie Buchan, an unemployed single mother of eight children who caused outrage when she publicly declared her £26,000 benefits weren't enough.

Marie says getting the benefits is a simple process: "You obviously have a baby, you send off the application form, birth certificate, they assess it and then you've got your money in your account. It is very easy.'"

Next it's onto Margate, where Myleene meets teen mum Becky.

She says: "I got quite a lot of negative comments from everyone. They just called me dirty, disgusting.

"There was one incident where someone actually followed me home and were shouting and swearing at me, so I was running with the buggy because I don't really want to get beaten up with my son."

Myleene also heads to North Wales to stay with 43-year-old single mother Rhiannon, who relies on state benefits after being made redundant and losing the family home shortly after her marriage broke down.

She now looks after her trio of children and her grandmother in a rented house.

"It's a bridge for now," she says. "You almost feel like it's a failure. You get a little bit embarrassed about it."

Myleene takes Rhiannon to meet a group of single mothers called Single With Kids in the Delamere Forest.

Rhiannon describes her experiences with the group as, 'Like an epiphany.' She says: "I've gone through that walk and come back and it's like, 'Yeah we're single mums, and look what we do.'"

There are 200,000 single dads raising their kids in Britain, and many of them also on rely on benefits.

So with that in mind, Myleene visits Dad's House, a charity where fathers get the chance to talk to other single dads.

One father, Luke, tells her: "I hated myself for having to go to the job centre. People ask you, 'How do you get your money?' When I say income support, 'Oh, dole dosser scum.' I don't want to claim but I have no choice."

Myleene Klass: Single Mum on Benefits, Tuesday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
A Midsummer Night's Dream
BBC1, 8.30pm
The Hollow Crown: The War of the Roses gave us a history lesson (of sorts), but now the BBC is turning its attention to Shakespeare's most magical comedy, A Midsummer Night's Dream. It's been adapted by former Doctor Who showrunner Russell T Davies, but while he's put his own stamp on it – and gathered an all-star cast including Matt Lucas, Maxine Peake and Bernard Cribbins – he assures us that he's sticking to the Bard's words. For those unfamiliar with the story, it opens in Athens, where dictator Theseus is planning to wed Hippolyta, a prisoner of war, and young Hermia is determined to escape a marriage to man she doesn't love. Meanwhile, in the woods, trouble is brewing between the King and Queen of the fairies, while in the town, the leading man of a squabbling amateur theatre group is about to undergo a magical transformation.

TUESDAY
World War One Remembered: The Battle of Jutland
BBC2, 7pm
David Dimbleby looks back on the day's events held to commemorate the Battle of Jutland, one of greatest sea battles in naval history. For one day in May 1916 the outcome of the First World War hung in the balance as 250 of Britain and Germany's most powerful warships fought head to head in the North Sea. Today, 100 years on, The Duke of Edinburgh, together with the German President, lead the tributes to those who fought and remember the one in 10 sailors who lost their lives.

WEDNESDAY
Lose Weight for Love
BBC1, 8pm
Tanya Byron helps Bob and Jane, whose overeating and excessive drinking is making them so unhappy that it is threatening to drive them apart. Over the past few years, the couple have piled on the pounds through eating vast meals and drinking up to 25 bottles of wine a week, and Bob admits that he no longer finds his partner attractive. Tanya and her team separate the pair for 10 weeks, arranging for Jane to resolve a long-standing issue with her adult daughter, and introducing former semi-professional footballer Bob to the fun of exercise.

A Midsummer Night's Dream, Monday, BBC1, 8.30pm

Versailles
BBC2, 9.30pm
It's not even aired in Britain yet, but this lavish period drama – which has previously been shown in France – is already whipping up controversy due to its sex scenes, with one MP questioning whether it's the sort of thing the BBC ought to be showing. Now, UK viewers have the chance to see what all the fuss is about. Mixing historical and fictional characters, the drama begins in the France of 1667, where the young King Louis XIV (George Blagden) is determined to stamp his authority on court and country, but is all too aware of the legacy of 'The Fronde', a series of civil wars which saw the nobility rebel against the crown. His plan to bring the rich to heel involves turning his father's hunting lodge into Europe's most magnificent chateau.

THURSDAY
Live International Football
ITV, 7.30pm
England v Portugal (Kick-off 7.45pm). Mark Pougatch presents all the action from both teams' final friendly before Euro 2016, which comes from Wembley Stadium. Roy Hodgson will be keen to cast his eye over his side in a match environment one more time before selecting his team to face Russia a week on Saturday, and they are likely to face a difficult encounter against the Portuguese. Fernando Santos' men have been handed what looks like one of the easier groups in France, and will be hopeful that they can go far, especially if talisman Cristiano Ronaldo is at his brilliant best. With analysis from Ian Wright and Lee Dixon.

FRIDAY
Fraud – How They Steal Your ID
ITV, 9pm
Criminals are increasingly procuring bank and credit card details from online customers, which are then freely traded on the so-called 'dark web'. However, as this programme reveals, to succeed in doing this they must first get personal with their targets using a combination of data hacks, spam e-mail and malware – often coupled by posing as inquisitive bank staff via telephone calls. With reference to true-life occurrences, this programme outlines the various techniques used to swindle account holders of their cash. Narrated by Shaun Dooley.

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Chatsworth House
Two days, from £159
Half board
Sept 25

Visit magnificent Chatsworth House, the 'Palace of the Peaks' and see some outstanding works of art, wonderful displays of furniture, silver, tapestries and porcelain, as well as some famous curiosities.

Afternoon tea will be in a beautiful room in the surroundings of the famous 18th century stables and will include a range of dainty finger sandwiches and a selection of homemade cakes and pastries.

There will also be chance to visit Bakewell and Matlock Bath and enjoy the spectacular scenery of the Peak District National Park.

Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V787X)

The Ritz
Two days, from £199
Bed and breakfast
Aug 7

The Ritz is one of the most famous hotels in London and is best known for its afternoon tea.

In a private dining room enjoy a selection of tea whilst the traditional menu includes freshly cut sandwiches, scones and a choice of pastries.

Visits are also included to Fortnum & Mason, famed as the quintessential English store for over 300 years plus Harrods the world's most famous luxury department store.

At St Pancras International, visit Europe's longest champagne bar for a glass of bubbly.

Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Houses of Parliament
Four days, from £299
Half board
Aug 26, Sept 9, Oct 14

Enjoy this four-day break with a unique opportunity to experience afternoon tea at the Palace of Westminster, in the elegant surrounds of the Terrace Pavilion.

Take a tour of the the Houses of Parliament, combining history, architecture and modern day politics, followed by afternoon tea overlooking the Thames in the House of Commons.

Choose from a seasonal menu of savouries and sweets created by Parliament's chefs.

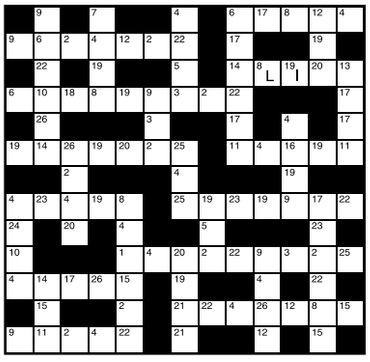
Visits are also made to St Albans, Kenwood House and the Royal Airforce Museum.

Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

BRAIN GYM No.379

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



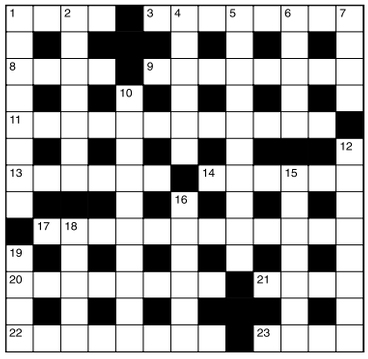
1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19 I
7	20
8 L	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
F	W	P	Z	L	R	E	B	J	C	G	Y	D
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
I	X	H	O	Q	T	A	S	N	K	V	M	U

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Point to a tree from the window (4)
3. The parson's address (8)
8. Sound as a bell (4)
9. Encouraging applause? (8)
11. Bet the flag will, sometimes (4,1,7)
13. Strange desire to settle somewhere (6)
14. I am in a rage, it appears (6)
17. Educated postman? (3,2,7)
20. Hip seams split by stress (8)
21. Still not excited (4)
22. Gives some support for regular girlfriends (8)
23. Stupefy in a most unusual fashion (4)

Down

1. His paper might be valuable (8)
2. Has no bite? (7)
4. Expire, though once healthy (6)
5. Choose to speak to the voters (10)
6. The very best from France (5)
7. Excavates lodgings (4)
10. This fight will be very close (4-2-4)
12. Yet he may be a queen! (8)
15. A nice tax might produce it, but it wouldn't be right (7)
16. Fish for position, we hear (6)
18. It brought to notice the gravity of the world situation (5)
19. They may be sweet to eat, or not! (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Applaud (4)
3. Trustworthy (8)
8. Observe (4)
9. Mark in degrees (8)
11. White-hot (12)
13. Reputation (6)
14. Lethargy (6)
17. Loving (12)
20. Expulsion (8)
21. Lake (4)
22. Guardianship (8)
23. Active (4)

Down

1. Persuade (8)
2. Commodity (7)
4. Merited (6)
5. Token (10)
6. Muscular strength (5)
7. Level (4)
10. Accompanying (10)
12. Verdure (8)
15. Tableland (7)
16. Powerful (6)
18. Mock-assault (5)
19. Exploit (4)

Sudoku

9	3						4	1
		5		4				
			7		9			5
4	8		3		5		1	6
	5						2	
6	1		2		7	5	9	4
			8		4			
				5				
5	2			7			3	8

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

7	2	3	9	8	1	5	6	4
6	5	8	4	7	2	9	3	1
9	1	4	6	5	3	8	7	2
1	4	7	8	2	5	3	9	6
2	3	5	7	9	6	1	4	8
8	6	9	1	3	4	7	2	5
4	7	1	3	6	8	2	5	9
3	8	2	5	4	9	6	1	7
5	9	6	2	1	7	4	8	3

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Greasepaint; 9 Tirades; 10 Still; 11 Nylon; 12 Russian; 13 Answer; 15 Brogue; 18 Elector; 20 Least; 22 Sepia; 23 Aspirin; 24 Bespattered. Down: 2 Rural; 3 Andante; 4 Ensure; 5 Asses; 6 Nailing; 7 Stand at ease; 8 Clandestine; 14 Steeple; 16 Relapse; 17 Truant; 19 Tramp; 21 Agree. QUICK - Across: 1 Application; 9 Abandon; 10 Niece; 11 Ennui; 12 Elegant; 13 Enrage; 15 Scheme; 18 Sultana; 20 Lilac; 22 Rapid; 23 Asiatic; 24 Secret agent. Down: 2 Plain; 3 Lodging; 4 Cancel; 5 Tense; 6 Overawe; 7 Tape measure; 8 Weathercock; 14 Relapse; 16 Calling; 17 Vacant; 19 Adder; 21 Latin.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. Of which country is Lusaka the capital?
2. Who wrote the opera Sir John In Love in 1929?
3. What is the highest mountain in the Cairngorms?
4. What type of creature is the mudskipper?
5. By what name was Robert MacGregor better known?
6. Which sport's principal forms are strokeplay and matchplay?
7. Who is the patron saint of Scotland?
8. Which disease is also called Hansen's disease?
9. What is a saluki?
10. Which country's all-woman team won the three-day event at the 1994 World Equestrian Games?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Lady Helen Taylor; 2 Iraq; 3 Burmese; 4 Yin and Yang; 5 Rio Grande; 6 Stendhal; 7 Mo Mowlam; 8 E Nesbit; 9 Anglican; 10 Stentor.

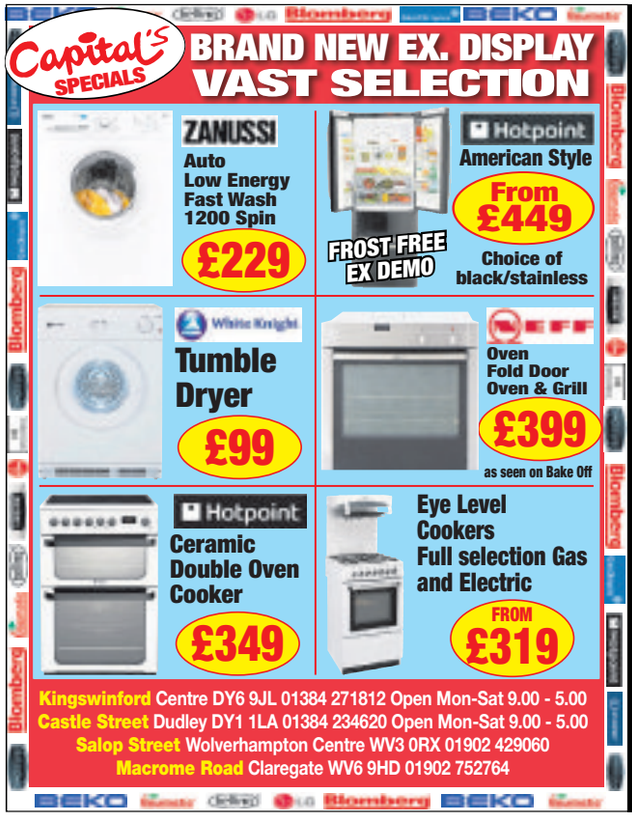
Niner: ADVERSITY

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

14628 gives a modern vessel,
371129 gives an old vessel,
173556 gives a stretch of water.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9



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Property

An Express & Star supplement

Express & Star

Garlic mushrooms on ciabatta bread

Tomato and basil linguine with veg

A good tradition – The Horns Inn, Rugeley

Rustic charm – the olde worlde interior

Trying new pubs can be risky but at Horns you'll be Inn for a real treat

By Louise Rouvray

EXPLORING new pubs is always risky but our minds were instantly put at ease on entering The Horns Inn.

But before going inside, we had a quick peek outside. If you're going for a day out at Cannock Chase or simply venturing a little further afield for some good nosh, this is the pub to wind up at.

Based on the edge of Rugeley, in Slitting Mill and a five-minute walk from The Chase, the pub sits next to a fishing pond and has a handy bus stop for those who don't drive and ample parking for those who do. And so we entered. Refurbished back in 2014, everything still looks fresh and clean – no sticky floors or 'old pub' smell in this place.

The interior has a trendy, yet traditional feel. The mismatched chairs, wooden tables, exposed brick walls, stone fireplace and firewood make for a rustic and relaxed feel. It may sound olde-worlde, but the stone-coloured walls, new wooden flooring and modern lighting gives the place a refreshing 21st century air.

Within five minutes of us being seated and we had already had a good look at the menu. I went for the pan fried button mushrooms in a garlic and herb sauce served with ciabatta to start, while my fiancé opted for the fresh homemade soup of the day – butternut squash.

For the mains, which arrived promptly. I'd gone for freshly prepared linguine with tomato and basil sauce, while my fiancé had chosen the 21-day aged 10oz sirloin steak, cooked medium rare (as requested) and served with grilled tomato, mushroom, peas and homemade chips. The chips here are to die for – literally like going to a soft, potato heaven with well-seasoned skinned pearly gates.

Being a vegetarian, unfortunately I couldn't taste test his mains, but he assured me the steak was tender and not too greasy.

Positive

He sliced through it easily enough, with about the right amount of chewiness/toughness and made contended grunting noises throughout – all in all, a very positive response.

My linguine was perfectly cooked – the pasta breaking easily in my mouth, but retaining a firm texture. The tomato sauce took me back to our recent trip to Italy, sipping wine in the sun and consuming enough pasta to fill a crater. Sliced courgettes, onions and peppers really brought out the simple, yet very scrumptious basil and tomato sauce. We had been aiming for a pudding, but I was filled to the brim.

Two starters, two mains and three drinks came in at £50.90, which some may consider a tad pricey, but put the quality (and quantity) of food on a set of scales with money on the other side and I'd say you have a fairly balanced load. Plus I must add my other half went for one of the most expensive things on the menu (as ever) – the 10oz sirloin steak, which was £18.95 – whereas most mains range from £9.95 to £12.95.

The pub also caters for all alcoholic tastes. Alongside a selection of ales, cider and wine, it's a gin lover's paradise with more than 48 artisan options and there's even a whiskey snug to settle into for a more cosy night out. I can safely say we will be back for a tipple or two, plus I need to try out their bean burger.

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Five-bedroomed individual style split-level self-build

Built in the 1970s, 6b Prospect Road, Lower Gornal, is a five-bedroomed individual style self-build, which is generally described as a split-level bungalow or a house.

It is for sale through Swinscoes at £249,950.

A spokesman for the selling agent said: "Although unique in design, it suits the area and particularly the street 'Prospect Road' very well, which hosts a selection of characterful individual style houses which are only a couple of minutes' walk into Gornal Village – ideal for someone who is looking for a convenient location, as well as something a little out of the ordinary.

The split-level accommodation has the living space including lounge, kitchen, shower room and a reception room on the first floor and has four further bedrooms downstairs.

There are well laid out and low maintenance gardens to the rear and stretching to the side of the property. It also has a balcony overlooking the garden from the lounge taking full advantage of the fantastic views.

The spokesman added: "Although some improvements have been made, the property has much more potential to further improve the house cosmetically, or even extend to the side – subject to relevant planning permissions – if so required by a purchaser.

"Essentially, the property offers the space and the scope for somebody to create their ideal home and viewing is highly recommended."

Swinscoes are a local, independent, family-run estate agent that specialises in the sale of residential properties in Sedgley, Coseley, Wolverhampton, Dudley and the surrounding areas.

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At Swinscoes estate agents, offering the highest level of customer service is one of their main objectives and biggest strengths.

The spokesman added: "We maintain communication throughout the whole process of selling your home from start to finish. Our team in Sedgley have years of experience and an excellent track record of achieving sales."

The company director is Christine Swinscoe. Born and bred in Dudley, her career spans more than 40 years.

Christine has many years' experience in the industry, initially starting a letting agents company, then moving onto Payne Estates and then finally taking over the company, creating Swinscoes Estate Agents in 2005.

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Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, May 26, 2016

Astra heads into space

By Jonathan Crouch

Vauxhall is hoping to increase its presence in the compact estate sector with the latest Astra Sports Tourer.

MPVs and 4x4s might offer more interesting options for family buyers but the solid, practical virtues of a good estate are not to be under-estimated.

This one's cleaner, more frugal, more practical, higher-tech and sharper to look at than before. It's a better package all-round.

When what you need to fit in your car just won't, you need a bigger car. Family hatchback owners confronted with this nightmare scenario have a number of options at their disposal. They could take the rugged route with a compact 4x4, choose the versatility of a mini-MPV or step up to a medium range saloon.

Alternatively, they could turn to an extended version of the family hatchback they already have. The estate car isn't the trendiest or most exciting option, but when you need a little bit more room, it does the job. Vauxhall's Astra Sports Tourer is little more than an extended Astra hatch but it could be all the car you need, especially in latest generation form.

Many of the leading lights in the family hatchback sector have an estate version. Focus, Golf, Peugeot 308 – the manufacturers of all these models see the value of tagging another few centimetres onto the rear of the five-door hatches to give customers the option of extra carrying capacity.

Vauxhall has a history of following suit with its Astra but like its rivals, sales of Astra estates have traditionally been way down on those of the standard hatchback versions.

The compact estate market looks likely to remain a niche one but with flashy Sports Tourer branding, this generation Astra estate could be destined to take a bigger slice of it.

Like the rest of the Astra Sports Tourer, the suspension is shared with the Astra hatchback. Reducing this latest model's weight by up to 200kgs has had a significant effect on the way this car drives.

It now soaks up bumps better and turns into the bends more easily, aided by a stiffer chassis and torque vectoring that helps with cornering traction. As before, this Vauxhall does without the kind of independent rear suspension system you'd find on a rival Ford Focus Estate, instead favouring a neat Watts linkage system that claims to reduce sideways motion between the axle and the body of the car as you go through the corners.

Under the bonnet, those in search of petrol power have an up-to the-minute range of options.

We'd suggest you bypass the most affordable 100PS 1.4-litre engine in favour of the lighter, more responsive and much more efficient 105PS 1.0-litre ECOTEC turbo three cylinder unit. If you need more power, there are a couple of 1.4-litre Turbo powerplants offering 125 or 150PS, plus a top 200PS 1.6 Turbo option. Diesel drivers get Vauxhall's refined 1.6-litre CDTi 'whisper diesel' unit with a choice of three power outputs – 110, 136 or 160PS. The 110PS ecoFLEX variant delivers class-leading efficiency figures – 91.2mpg on the combined cycle and 82g/km of CO2.

The Sports Tourer body shape further extends the now-sportier styling of the seventh generation five-door model. The slightly arched sloping roofline gives this estate derivative a longer appearance – an effect further enhanced by the divided C-pillar. The rear view aims to combine practicality with a bit of elegant design, but overall, the emphasis is on a stable, robust and safe stance, with the muscular rear-wheel arch contours and the divided rear light clusters adding to this impression. This latest generation Sports Tourer has the same dimensions as its predecessor, with a length of 4,702mm, a width of 1,871mm and a height of 1,499mm. Despite that, it offers much more space for passengers and luggage.

The suspension is shared with the Astra hatchback. Reducing this latest model's weight by up to 200kgs has had a significant effect on the way this car drives

The driver can enjoy 26mm of additional headroom and passengers in the rear have 28mm more. The Sports Tourer's total cargo capacity is now 1,630-litres with the rear seat folded, this thanks to more efficient packaging.

At the wheel, the characteristic fascia element is what Vauxhall refers to as a 'blade'-style panel that stretches right across the cabin trimmed in piano black with a neat chromed edging. Beautifully integrated into it is an Intellilink infotainment screen, either 7 or 8-inches in size.

There's a price premium of around £1,000 for the Sports Tourer estate version over its five-door hatchback stablemate and that means you'll be paying from just over £16,500 to around £21,000 for mainstream versions.

At the affordable end of the petrol line-up, it's well worth trying to find the £700 premium Vauxhall asks to graduate from the entry-level 1.4-litre 100PS unit to the far more responsive and efficient three cylinder 1.0-litre powerplant.

Want a diesel? Well there are no duffers in the Astra black pump line-up any more – even the base 110PS 1.6-litre CDTi unit (priced from around £18,000) is impressive. Most buyers though, pay the necessary premium (around £700) to get themselves this engine in pokier 136PS guise.

Conventional automatic transmission is only available on the 150PS 1.4-litre petrol Turbo model or the 136PS version of the 1.6-litre CDTi diesel – for a premium of around £1,300 over the manual variant. However, at the bottom of the range, you can get a simpler 'Easytronic' set-up – essentially a manual gearbox without a clutch – on the 1.0-litre petrol engine for a premium of just £400.

Standard equipment across the range includes alloy wheels and an Intellilink colour infotainment touchscreen compatible with the latest Apple CarPlay and Android Auto systems. We particularly like the 'OnStar' personal connectivity system that offers destination downloads, wi-fi access, vehicle tracking system and automatic accident emergency response.

Those magnificent Mazdas

By Michael Weston

Mazda's compact CX-3 is an urban crossover that's reprising the success of its CX-5 big brother.

Mazda pulls out all the stops and condenses all the best bits of the gorgeous CX-5 into a smaller package. The CX-3 comes in front or all-wheel drive, and is offered with petrol or diesel power. It's light and it's good looking, with a chunky equipment list and reasonable pricing.

What more could you ask for?

All too often, cars in this class look gawky, too stubby, too tall and too narrow. Somehow the CX-3 just looks right, thanks to its cab-back body and long bonnet proportioning. The predatory headlights are anything but cutesy and the coupe-like roofline gives it a real sporting stance.

Like most crossovers in this class, the CX-3 is offered with a choice of front or all-wheel drive chassis, and petrol and diesel engines. There are front-wheel drive models and the range-topping Sport Nav is all-wheel drive. The CX-3 is also offered with both manual and automatic transmissions.

Mazda's almost fanatical devotion to stripping unnecessary weight out of its cars means that although many of its cars look pretty substantial, they can weigh as much as a car in the next class down. This has all sorts of beneficial effects, not only in terms of vehicle dynamics but also when it comes to efficiency. Case in point: the CX-3 front-wheel drive diesel variant. With emissions of just 105g/km, this model has an official combined economy of 70.6mpg.

When it comes to compact SUVs and crossovers, Mazda's CX-5 may very well be the best car of this kind you can buy, especially in revised form with slicker suspension.

The market's fastest growing segment right now is that for crossovers and compact soft-roading SUVs. If you want something that offers the best of both and offers the finest driving dynamics, the lowest running costs, the most space and arguably the best value in the class, then it's hard to ignore Mazda's improved CX-5. But try one and you might just think it to be the best.

Mazda's compact CX-3 is an urban crossover, reprising the success of its CX-5 big brother

The CX-5 is excellently packaged, has class-leading economy and emissions plus driving dynamics that set a new benchmark in this sector. Add in a high specification and competitive pricing and you've a compelling proposition, especially since recent suspension and refinement improvements.

As for off road prowess, this car has a set-up in which the torque is automatically split according to the terrain you're on, so it can direct 100% of drive to the front wheels in normal conditions, with up to 50% then directed to the rear wheels if slip is detected.

The Mazda CX-5 is the least expensive car to run in its segment as well as being the best equipped. It's yet another example of Mazda going its own way, doing things differently. Looking for a car of this kind?

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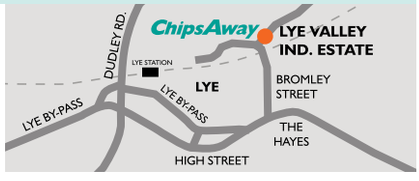

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£4,500 ono

07971 229109.

KAMPA RALEIGH PRO 260, air awning, excellent condition, with ground sheet, rear poles, roof lining. £390. 07791 410295.

SPRITE MUSKETEER EB
2012, 1 owner, 4 berth, many extras, lightweight, very good condition, attractive upholstery,
£9,495
07775 610823

caravans wanted

CARAVAN WANTED cash on pick up asap. Call me on 07717 090817.

WANTED ALL CARAVANS
Any age or condition
Also motorhomes wanted.
TOP PRICES PAID
Immediate collection.
CALL THOMAS
07776373150

TOURING CARAVAN WANTED, in need of repair, anything considered. Please telephone 07980 365757.

music shop

FENDER RUBLE bass amp, Fender precision bass copy, Digitech bass chorus pedal, guitar leads. £280 ono. 07756 676417.

SINGER REQUIRED. Well established band, big pa, light show, gigs waiting, need lead singer any gender, style, tribute. Ring Paul 07811 865982.

sports & leisure

DAVINE EXERCISE BIKE excellent condition. £30 ono. Buyer to collect. 0121 293 6133.

FreeAds
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items upto £250.
Online at
bookanad.
expressandstar.co.uk

SET OF LEFT handed golf cubs, bag, trolley and water proofs etc. £100 the lot. 01902 679101.

holidays

caravan sales

LET US SELL YOUR CARAVAN for you and achieve the best possible price. Seven Valley Leisure, Stourbridge DY8 4HP. 01384 390183

mind, body & soul

health & fitness

Active
Exciting new exercise classes arriving near you soon!
Email **activeseniorsclass@gmail.com**
An opportunity to improve strength, balance and reduce falls risk - sessions to suit a range of abilities.
Classes taken by two highly qualified exercise specialists with years of experience. We are trained to deal with a range of health and mobility problems.
Listed with the "Register of Exercise Professionals"
Classes starting in Halesowen, Kingswinford, Sedgley, Hagley and Brierley Hill.
Ring Kim or Angela on 07512 546480 for more details and to book your FREE taster class.
A not for profit organisation

what's on

antique fairs

ANTIQUE/COLLECTORS FAIR Kinver Comm Centre, Sun 29th May (also Bromsgrove every Fri) Next fair 5th June limited stalls available. EST 1979, Waverley. Next Book Fair Sunday 17th July. Home made refreshments available (all venues). 0121 550 4123.

markets

STOURBRIDGE CAR BOOT
At Stourbridge Rugby Club
Open every Wednesday from 18th May
07957 399964

BESCOT SUNDAY MARKET OPEN EVERY SUNDAY
Banks's Stadium, Walsall FC
WS1 4SA, FREE PARKING, J9 M6
07889 975701 All hard standing

3 Home & Services

furniture

BEDSTEAD AND MATTRESS black wrought iron, £45. Tub leather armchair. £5. 01902 331155.

household appliances

FRIDGE FREEZER in excellent working order, £85 can deliver. 07493 919511.

in your garden

FLYMO LARGE petrol mower, 18" cut, nice, clean condition. £110. 07730 911855.

items for sale

BOOK YOUR ADVERTISEMENTS OR FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS ONLINE AT
bookanad.
expressandstar.co.uk

and become one of hundreds of customers who regularly receive exclusive special offers & discounts.

ClassifiedAds

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

BEDSTEAD AND MATTRESS black wrought iron, £20. 01902 331155.

GRAND HOUSE ENTRANCE GATES 12ft wide 8ft high '/.' square section, ex-Kelton Hall Devon. Best offers:Call for details 01902 842014

TENT, 6-berth plus, top of the range, never used, in holdall, as brand new, £195. 01902 341611.

TWO OFF Cast Iron support columns, 2.3 mtr length, 580ml dia, nice condition, shot blasted, painted. £500 pair. 07938 545259.

items wanted

ALL GOLD 9CT UP TO £300 PER OUNCE
CASH PAID TODAY
A GENUINE LADY BUYER
All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester Moorcroft
• Lladro • Old coins
• WATCHES • COSTUME JEWELLERY
• Diamonds and Gold Coins • Clocks • Paintings
• ALL SILVER • All Oriental Items
Pre'47 silver coins All war medals etc
ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING
HOUSE CLEARANCES
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

A ABSOLUTELY BEST price given for single items or houses cleared. Antique, old, reproduction. Call: 01384 482155 or 07802 475693.

A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS
Any gauge or age
Hornby / Bachmann / Bowmans / Roundhouse / Graham / Farsh / any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.
01384 836219/07891 713547.
thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

ALL BRASS / COPPER ornaments/ brassware, all descriptions, miners lamps, old medals, dinky, corgi toys. 01902 745598.

MAMOD STEAM engines/trains wanted all conditions, railway collections, Dinky, Corgi vehicles, any condition. 01902 745598.

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

t.v. / home entertainment

service

AERIAL & TV SPECIALISTS: FREE Estimates on any TV Repairs, Plasma, LCD, 3D, LED, Projection. All areas covered 8 till late. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation. Wall mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

specialists at your service

aerials

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
1 AERIAL INTO 2 ROOMS £90
WE WILL BEAT ANY WRITTEN QUOTE
Work Guaranteed
01902 858191
01384 429166
01543 439095
01922 716029
07833 738857
VISA MasterCard Checkatrade.com

alarms/security

PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

carpet & upholstery cleaning

A BRILL CLEAN for your Carpets & Suite. O.A.P Discounts. Best Prices. Call Steve 07496 922324.

A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
OAP discount. Recession Prices.
Unbeatable Value: Rooms cleaned from £10
Call Paul 07870 341089

building services

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
Over 35 years experience in the industry
All aspects of building work including: Extensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways & landscaping.
Discounts offered.
01902 579592 / 07837 994465

Drylining Company
Urgently require experienced Plasterers, Dot & Dabbers and Tackers at various sites in the Midlands Region.
Lloyd Davenport Ltd.
Please call Damian on 07973 825432 or email callum@ld.co.uk

double glazing

ATS DOUBLE GLAZING UPVC back doors from £299, front doors from £389 fitted. 01922 442720.

electrical services

STEVE JONES ELECTRICAL Rewires/sockets/fuse boards etc. All domestic and commercial work. 07786 858977/01902 846167.

external rendering / insulation

EXTERIOR RENDERING full houses, patching, textured/smooth. 40yrs exp. Stuart 01902 324727.

fencing

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards **£695**
Heavy duty panels supplied and fitted.
6x6 H/D Treated panels £15.95
6x5 Feather edge panels £18.95
8 foot concrete posts £8.95
12 inch x 6 foot gravel boards £7.95
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

Tidy Fencing
Professional Fence Fitters & Gardeners
Established 2001
We are fully insured
NPTC qualified and all work comes with a 12 month warranty.
SPECIAL RATES
available to senior citizens.
No job too small.
BIG SPRING DISCOUNT NOW AVAILABLE

Shed refelts now available!
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07908 478 962

gardening services

For all your Patio's, Turfing, Decking, treework and Root grinding...
Prestwood FENCING & LANDSCAPING
Call us on: 01384 273586 or 07947 879403 or visit www.prestwoodfencing.co.uk for more details

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per garden. 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

gas fitting

READERS ARE ADVISED
To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.
It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

house clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST CASH PRICE PAID
for house clearances and bereavements.
Shops, Schools and Commercial clearances
Also removals undertaken.
All rubbish removed. Carriers licence held
07852 172641 / 07710 360327

ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING CLEARED
FULL OR PART GARAGES / SHEDS, RUBBISH REMOVED WASTE LICENCE
01384 486456 / 07711661135

painters / decorators

HODGETTS DECORATORS. All aspects of commercial and domestic work. C & G qualified. Free quotes. Call 01902 324128.

LOVE 2 WALLPAPER
Reliable & Friendly, Professional
Female Painter and Decorator
Wallpaper is my speciality, competitive prices.
For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle.
Plastering & Coving Work Undertaken
01384 287577 or 07812 484194

plastering

M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING SERVICES. For All Your Home Improvements. Over 30 Years Experience.
Call Mark on 07741 770897.

removals

A & M CHEAP REMOVALS
Local
Careful Firm
Full or Part loads
Call Don:
07749 941319

A1 KINGSWINFORD REMOVALS & HOUSE CLEARANCES
Single items,
Full houses, Offices etc
Recession rates, FREE QUOTES
We take the stress away
40 years experience
07966 281957

A MAN WITH A VAN Single items, flat/house removals/clearances, local/nationwide. Call Steve 0121 422 2999 or 07815 043724

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

CALL IAN. Man with a large van. No job too small, no distance too far. 07973 628534, 01902 891535.

CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN, Removals, clearances, large/small. 01902 741546, 07899 635852.

Stourbridge Removals

20+ YEARS EXP
Home, Office,
Part loads, landlord
clean & repair service.
House clearances.
Quality service guaranteed
lowest rates
Call John - 07802 876 876
office - 01562 640 640

roofing

T L Fowkes Roofing & Building Solutions
FREE QUOTATIONS ON REQUEST
call or email
07896 334 946
t.fowkes@yahoo.co.uk
Experts in all roofing and building aspects Including:
• Flat roofing • GRP roofing • Slate and tile roofing
• uPVC and all major building works

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

skip hire

BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH! No Skips, we load, fast friendly service, 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2 8JR, Est 35 years, 01384 232359.

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

AIR RIFLES, SHOT GUNS, Antique guns, taxidermy- big bore guns, traps etc wanted. 07968 624202

HW95K .177 and 3-9 x 40 AO IR WA NS Panamax scope and 1 piece mount and gun bag, 1 year old, receipts, perfect condition, £320 ono. 07891 715354.

pets corner

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS
All neutered, innoculated and microchipped.
Call 01922 412212 or
www.rgtwolverhampton.co.uk
RGT Wolverhampton
@RGTWolves

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

BICHON FRISE cross Chihuahua (Chi-chons), adorable puppies, microchipped, flead and wormed to date, both parents can be seen. £400. 07572 687123.

EIGHT WEEK OLD Kittens weaned and litter trained £20. 01902 689992.

JEFFRY'S DOG WALKING/sitting service. W-ton. Fully insured/reg. Senior Citizen rates. 07974 913703

TWO COCK BUDGERIGARS in large cage with stand, £50 ono. Must collect. 01902 754015.

TWO BUDGIES in large cage with stand, £50 ono. Must collect. 01902 754015.

MONDAY
TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
JOBSDAY
Every Thursday our special jobs section is packed with the week's latest vacancies.
Make sure you get your copy - it might be just what you've been waiting for.
jobs.expressandstar.com
REAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

vets

Express & Star

THIS SPACE COULD BE PROMOTING YOUR BUSINESS

Every day our customers get a great response from Classified Advertising.

So could you by calling our friendly experienced Sales Advisors on 01902 319191.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

commercial premises sale / let

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY FOR SALE
Ideal starter opportunity for upholstery / wooden frame making, sale includes complete set up, all stock, machinery, patterns, office equipment. Operating from a rented large two storey showroom / workroom on busy main road, Brierley Hill, West Midlands.
£8,500 ono.
Call 07432 149662.

6 Property

accommodation to let

A MODERN two bed flat with garage, Coalway Road, Wolverhampton. 01952 463603.

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

FURNISHED 1 bed flat, Warstones, recent refurb,close to amenities, suit working couple/single. £400 pcm. 07969 104264.

WILLENHALL, luxury room, furnished, working person, £57pw. Telephone 07401 089298.

BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL

01902 317878

ClassifiedAds

properties wanted

ClassifiedAds BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

BLACK COUNTRY HOMES

IT WORKS FOR ME

We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates.

Black Country Homes

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL **01902 319 191**

Brought to you by **Express & Star**

Home Cash Buyer

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish

£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££

Houses / Land Required

Ring Paul 24/7 Local 07870 341 089

Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

A LOCAL BUYER pays full market value and more for your property. Call Rick 07729 297901

overseas property

HOUSE AND GITE BEAUFICEL, FRANCE

House has two bedrooms and a ensuite and a large living room with open plan dining and kitchen area with a large log burner. **Gite** has open plan living room / kitchen and upstairs is a bedroom.

£130,000.

For more info e-mail steve-carol1@hotmail.co.uk.

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

7 Jobs

nursing & carers

EXPERIENCED CARE ASSISTANT Minimum requirement NVQ level 2 Tel Nischa on 01384 379165

full time - general

FURNITURE SALES MANAGER (Retail) - Merry Hill, Dudley. Must have excellent selling & negotiating skills. Experience of furniture retail an advantage but not essential. Salary £30k per year OTE 37.5 hours per week inc. Bank Holidays and weekends. No late nights. Email covering letter and CV to barbara.harris@williamandsons.co.uk

Internal Sales Person

PFC

Required for our busy sales office based in Stourbridge.

This is a full time position.

The successful applicant will have an excellent telephone manner and experience in the role of telesales, order processing and general admin duties. Ideally, you will have experience selling tube and fittings into the stainless steel industry sector. We also sell a range of plastic pipework products therefore knowledge of the plastics industry would be an advantage.

Salary is negotiable and will depend upon age, experience and product knowledge.

Please apply in writing enclosing your C.V To
Mr R Jones, Process Flow Components Ltd
Units 12 & 13 Providence Ind Est, Lye, Stourbridge DY9 8HQ
rjones@processflow.co.uk

Shropshire STAR

SENIOR REPORTER

The Shropshire Star is looking for a senior reporter.

This is a role that requires dedication, commitment and enthusiasm. You must have a proven record of digging out the best off-diary news stories and features, together with an awareness of how to make the most of social media.

You must be an NCTJ-trained journalist and able to deliver accurate, entertaining copy under pressure of deadlines for our print and digital platforms. You must have a full, clean driving licence.

This is a rare opportunity to join the team at the Shropshire Star, part of the Midland News Association stable of publications across the Midlands.

You will benefit from a competitive salary, 25 days annual holiday and the chance to develop your career on one of the country's biggest regional newspapers.

Apply by e-mail to Shropshire Star editor Martin Wright at editorial.support@shropshirestar.co.uk

Closing date will be June 3, 2016.

POSTAL APPLICATIONS TO:
MARTIN WRIGHT EDITOR
SHROPSHIRE STAR
KETLEY, TELFORD TF1 5HU
BY JUNE 6, 2016.

courses

TAMWORTH: 2-3 JUNE TELFORD: 3-4 SEPT.
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Accredited ocn Geopace Training

Learn how to take blood
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TWO DAY COURSE - **Certificate in Phlebotomy**
NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
More info. or to book: www.geopace.com
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8 Motoring

cars over £1500

SELLING YOUR CAR?

We have a package to suit every budget.
Packages start from as little as
£21.00 for 6 nights
Plus
6 nights free if you do not sell.
CALL 01902 317878

CITROEN C4 2-dr Coupe, 1.6 VTR petrol, blue, 36,000 miles, FSH, MoT, good condition. £2,895 ono. 07847 456061.

FORD FIESTA TITANIUM
New Shape, black, 5dr, 1.6, 09 reg, (Aug 09), 31k, MoT Nov 16, E/W, E/M, alloys, hands free blue tooth phone kit, FSH, perfect runner.
£4,750 ono.
07528 372995.

FORD FOCUS Titanium, 1.6 TDCi, 2010, MoT March 24, 2017, 91,000 miles, any inspection, £3,450. 01902 789597. 07597 567731.

FORD FUSION 2
2005, 37,808 miles, silver blue, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, MoT, metallic paint, central locking, pas, stereo, CD, swb.
£1,995 ono.
07970 592775.

MAZDA 6 TAKUYA 2012, 2.2 diesel sports style, 17,000 miles, 12 months MoT, half leather, immaculate. £9,500. 01384 832702.

PEUGEOT 207S HDI
3-dr hatchback, 1.6 diesel, grey, 58 reg, MoT November, 10 service stamps, 1 former owner, £30 tax, well looked after.
£2,195 ono
07949 990640.

RENAULT CLIO 1.2 Campus, met silver, 57 plate (reg 2008) long MoT, excellent condition throughout, £1,700 ono. 07971 360809.

SUZUKI ALTO 1000cc, auto, 2009, 20k miles, pensioners car, economical and reliable, any trial. £3,500. 01902 753545. 07800 637961.

VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN Twinport 1.6 petrol, 2006, 68,000 miles, 5-dr, blue, £1,825 ono. 07946 879532.

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.9 diesel energy, 2007, 7 seater, MoT Dec, metallic silver, tow bar, good condition, £2,095 ono. 07583 022011.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

BMW 325 TDS SE, auto, classic insurance, good condition, serviced, MoT'd, £875 ono. 07864 842076.

CITROEN C3 SX 1.3 5dr, 53 reg, red, only 61k, lady owner, MoT, as new condition, only £1,095. 07984 141652.

CITROEN PICASSO 2002, 2.0 HDI, MoT,120k, Blue, E/W, PAS, drives well, new brakes. £495 ono 07950 812797.

FORD KA SPORT 04, full MoT, as new condition, leather interior, usual extras, silver £750 07919 668380.

PEUGEOT 206
1.24cc hatchback, petrol, 2002, 67,000 miles, lady owner, FSH, just had complete engine overhaul and service.
£850.
07802 202211 or 01902 342882.

PEUGEOT 206 Convertible, 1600, 52 plate, full MoT, very good condition, £850. 01384 251328 or 07972 169554.

PEUGEOT 307 1.6 petrol, SE, 06, black, 76,000 miles, very clean in/out, EW, AC, full MoT, 1 former keeper, £1,150. 07838 897643.

RENAULT SCENIC 53 plate, black, CD player, low mileage, 52K, 12 months MoT. £895. 01952 852151.

RENAULT SCENIC Dynamique, 51 plate, 84,558 miles, MoT till January 2017, silver, excellent condition, £850. 07968 905654.

ROVER 45 Impression, 1.4, 02, 12 months MoT, 64k, lovely condition throughout, well looked after. £550. 07733 437736.

SAAB 1999 silver, convertible, petrol, 6 months MoT, Alarm, PAS, CD, AC, low mileage, £950 ono. 07399 489303.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 2.2, 2003 plate, MoT end of October, lots of new parts, £725 ono. 07903 748933.

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 51 plate, black, 12 months MoT, CD, front EW, 7 seater, good condition, £800 ono. 07474 334353.

classic cars

WANTED, CLASSIC Cars. Private cash buyer.Instant cash settlement. Any age. Any condition. 01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

commercial vehicles

FORD TRANSIT CONNECT 2006, red, long MoT, fsh, roof bars, £1,500 o.n.o. 07913 981460.

driving tuition

Homer's
10 Hours £89! Five Hours £50!
2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered
ADI/PDI REQUIRED. Gift vouchers available for £10
07432 458100 / 01562 870050
01384 234954 / 0121 5640090
01902 580065 www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

motorbikes

TRIUMPH 955 DAYTONA Y reg, MoT'd, new battery, chain and sprockets. £1,800 ono. 07719 923101. After 7pm.

YAMAHA XT 660Z Tenere, 2008, low miles, many extras, excellent condition £3,500. 01902 741598.

YAMAHA XT 660Z Tenery, 2008, low miles, many extras, excellent condition £3,500. 01902 741598.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

A BETTER PRICE
for scrap or damaged cars and commercials. Spares for sale.
NINE LOCKS VEHICLE DISMANTLERS LTD
Brierley Hill 01384 76566 or 70553. Evenings 75397. DY5 3JZ.

MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts available at all times
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

vehicles wanted

alan reed cars
Used cars wanted for cash
Top prices paid. HP settled.
Buyer could call.
01562 711083 / 07831 245313

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, 01902 597035.

MAZDA MX5 CONVERTIBLE red, silver or grey, must be good condition, reasonable price. 01902 620406.

spares & accessories

accessories & services

TRAILER 4X3 With jockey wheel for sale, £140 ono. 07805 942308.

clutches / brakes / gearboxes

A CLUTCH CHANGE MOBILE
30 yrs experience
ALL AREAS COVERED
Call Bob
01384 251328 or 07972 169554 anytime
For Example:
Citroen C1, C2, C3
Hyundai 110
Toyota Yaris
Clios & Micras
Ring for quotes on others!

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on 01902 713146
or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

10 Personals

personal

GENTLEMAN 5FT 5INS
74 years of age wishes to meet lady 50-75 for Friendship, possible relationship.
Photo appreciated and returned.
Box Number P20358 ,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

6FT TALL, 54 YEAR OLD SLIMISH, REASONABLY ATTRACTIVE MALE

Wicked sense of humour, young outlook, own teeth and hair.

Looking for a genuine, slim, single female, for hopefully a genuine LTR.

Box Number P20356,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton,
WV1 1ES.

MALE, 60
Very sincere, easy going and loving, WLTM female for friendship or relationship.
Box Number P20357,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

70 SINGLE MAN

Own house and car, very active, has got a lot of love to give to the right lady.

Box Number P20359 ,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

sports clubs

SEDGLEY WHITE LIONS
Are looking for players to go into Under 9's, currently school year 3 going into 4, 7 a side next season 2016/17.
Preferably already played for a team, however not essential.
Call
Ste Fellows 07476 378581.
smfellows2003@yahoo.co.uk

WITHYMOOR COLTS
Charter Standard Community Status Club.
All Managers minimum FA Level 1 and CRC Checked.
The following Teams are looking for Players:
U8's going to under U9's
require experienced
OUTFIELD PLAYERS.
Call Simon 07912 965503.
U11's going to U12's
require experienced
OUTFIELD PLAYERS
Call Robbie 07903 341476
U15's Girls going to U16's
Require experienced
OUTFIELD PLAYERS
Call Sean 07935 464079.

general

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

BURIAL PLOT at Danescourt Cemetery, Tettenhall, W-ton, available with 65 year lease. £900 ono. 07949 592475 Mr Kyle.

IT'S FREE IT'S EASY

**Advertise any item FREE up to the value of £250 go to:*

bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

*T&C's apply

ClassifiedAds

Express & Star DATING

YOUR regional dating service, run by the dating experts who have been established since 1990. ***REAL people in YOUR region***

Try it.. You'll love it!

Here's how to use your dating service ...

To ***Place*** your advert call:

0844 381 5936

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Single Women

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LUCY 37yrs 5ft 11ins brunette, loves nightlife, socialising, having fun, looking for fun guy who can make me laugh and promises a good time. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422455**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673**

BARBARA, 49, attractive green-eyed blonde, OHAC, likes travel, cinema, meals out etc, looking for genuine caring male up to 65yr for possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422439**

KIM, 32yrs, attractive blonde lady seeks discreet gent for daytime distractions. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 421657**

FEMALE, 67, young looking widow, 5ft2, green eyes, likes meals out, holidays, reading, WLTM gentleman of similar age, or older. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422393**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715**

MICHELLE, 37, pretty, very fit, well travelled seeks active, broadminded male to share new experiences and adventures with. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422459**

LUCY first time advertiser, 32yrs, tall slim blonde airline worker, seeks discreet gent, any status for casual fling. Looks/age unimportant. **Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box: 420237**

EMMA 56, active and always on the go, seeks fit, active, country loving guy who shares passion for the outdoors. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422443**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399**

KATHY, 45, curvy blonde seeking reliable honest man who can get me out of this rut I am stuck in, open to new ideas and looking for someone special? Give me a try. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422263**

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375**

KAREN 32 a hardworking petite blonde, enjoys nights out, music, etc, WLTM for more than just friendship with similar chilled, kind, easygoing guy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422267**

WENDY, mature, passionate ladylike divorcee seeks no strings casual friendship/fun with gent any age. **Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box 421605**

JACKIE, 49, dark hair, green eyes, cuddly build, likes going out, gym, reading, looking for an honest gentleman for friendship/possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422257**

JESSIE, sophisticated, well educated brunette lady, 38yrs, WLTM man of any age for discreet chats, meetings and more. Age/looks unimportant must have SOH. **Box 4107857**

FEMALE, looking for an honest, caring, easygoing male. I am divorced and like walks, going for meals, cinema and love dogs. **Text only Mailbox: 4539974**

CAROLINE, bored housewife 42, seeking a little excitement. Are you 30+ and discreet, if so ping me a text and give me a few details. **Box: 4078682**

JOANNA, 49 years old, looking to meet a man for friendship 50/60 years old. **Text only Mailbox: 5428223**

LORRAINE bored 36yr old looking for discreet no strings fun with likeminded uncomplicated male, any age/looks/status. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422241**

SARA, 39, home owner, likes animals, tattoos and texting, looking for friendship hopefully leading to more. Get in touch! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421455**

LUCY, 49, just looking to enjoy life, can you help? seeks fun and good times in or out, nothing heavy just no strings meets. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422223**

CHRISTINE, 48, petite blue eyed brunette, attractive, many varied interests, looking for honest, caring, N/S romantic guy with GSOH to make my life complete again. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422245**

MARILYN blue eyed curvy just right female, 36, loves music, good wine, romantic strolls, cosy nights in, WLTM like-minded romantic for quality times. Age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422227**

BROWN eyed brummie female, 65, smoker, likes music, cinema, meals out, WLTM male, 66 -73, for LTR. **Text only Mailbox: 4400186**

CLARA, 32yr old nurse who likes cosy nights in with a good bottle of wine and spending quality times with great company, if you feel the same pls get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422055**

JENNY, 48, single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensual and looking for very special male friend. Only genuine callers pls. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422033**

CHRIS, 40, blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422013**

JENNY, 48, single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensual and looking for very special male friend. Only genuine callers pls. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422033**

CILLA, 40, tall blue eyed size 12 brunette, loves horses, country/beach walks, cosy nights infront of fire, good wine/food, WLTM similar male who appreciates my interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422009**

TINA, 43, young looking attractive single female looking for love, with similar lonely heart resorting to advertising in the hope of finding love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421613**

ANNA, 41, new to single life seeking caring professional male for no strings fun, attention and laughter. Life is too short, lets enjoy it! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421127**

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LOVELY lady inside and out, likes music, art, days out, countryside, poetry, model railways, socialising, DVDs, looking for a kind hearted gent, 52+, with a caring nature and GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421935**

FEMALE, 60s, young looking for my age, likes singing, dancing, meals in and out, theatre, fun to be with. Single would like to meet the same. **Text only Mailbox: 5448634**

SALLY 37 blonde, blue eyed, who loves life, music, letting my hair down, looking for similar flirty guy for enjoy TLC and life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421451**

CURVY Irish female 35yrs looking for fun, frolics, weekends away and lots of excitement with reliable male, discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421877**

SHARON a young 49, caring bubbly sincere single lady, full curvy figure, loves the coast and seaside, cosy meals in WLTM male with similar interests. **Text only Mailbox: 5444189**

CHRIS, 40, blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422013**

TALL leggy slim brunette 37, attractive and very much single, WLTM fun loving guy 40-60yrs who loves food, wine, cosy nights in or out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422029**

PRETTY, very fit, young 49 year old female, no baggage, seeks fit, refined male, n/s, with young outlook, for evenings out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421977**

CARING honest female, WLTM genuine guy for LTR in Glos/Bristol area. **Text only Mailbox: 4209465**

CARING honest female WLTM genuine guy for LTR in Glos/Bristol area. Text mail box only. **Text only Mailbox: 4209465**

MANDY divorced independent 46yrs old, confident, bubbly and social, looking for male companion to share good times and to be there for each other. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421841**

FEMALE seeks male to wine and dine me, and treat me like a lady, aged between 50 and 60. **Text only Mailbox: 5444151**

BROWN eyed brummie female, smoker, likes music, cinema, meals out, WLTM white male for LTR. **Text only Mailbox: 4400186**

SHARON 49, med to well built, cuddly, young at heart, happy ,easygoing, loves the coast and seaside looking for honest friendly male. **Text only Mailbox: 5444189**

ROSEMARY early 50s, GSOH, likes meals out, travel, etc, looking for man to share these things with. N/S. **Text only Mailbox: 5079890**

SUE 40s female who enjoys evenings in/out looking for someone to have some fun and hopefully get close to, go on, give me a ring. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421809**

46YR old Asian lady looking for friendship maybe more with white male 50+ **Text only to Mailbox: 5404865**

REBECCA tall slim elegant long legged romantic, sensual, professional, lots to offer, seeks similar male who also appreciates the finer things in life, **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421583**

SUE, 39, slim feminine brunette, caring, fun loving, independent, no ties, OHAC, loves cooking, WLTM willing male to get to know and spend quality times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421617**

DONNA 42yrs young separated female who is ready to start dating again, bubbly, attractive, blonde and raring to get going, come on don't keep me waiting! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421567**

SARA, 39, home owner, likes animals, tattoos and texting, looking for friendship hopefully leading to more. Get in touch! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421455**

ATTRACTIVE, slim woman looking for fun and excitement with guy 35-40 pls text. **Text only Mailbox: 5419773**

TINA, 43, young looking attractive single female looking for love, with similar lonely heart resorting to advertising in the hope of finding love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421613**

MANDY, 45, friendly outgoing arty female who loves wining/dining, looking for male to sweep me off my feet, take me out and make me feel special, reciprocation guaranteed. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421503**

JESSICA 39, attractive fit/healthy blonde female enjoys travel, music, the Arts, gym, the good things in life, seeking love, laughter, LTR with similar male, 40-55yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421583**

HI I am Lorna 39yr old slim female, 5ft 5ins, many interests, loves music, seeking romantic male to enjoy special times together, hopefully leading to true love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421413**

JAYNE, 42, very pretty brunette, stylish, fun, loves the 60's, fine wine/restaurants, seeks professional gent for mutual life enhancement. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421311**

JO attractive 30's brunette who loves life, WLTM up for it male to enjoy nights in/out, weekends away, fun times and hopefully more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421259**

MONICA 35, very attractive, gorgeous curvy figure, WLTM nice male who wants to get to know a genuine black beauty to wine, dine, romance hopefully leading to more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421241**

TRISH, 45, tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves TLC, WLTM male who also likes to be in a loving relationship, 39-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421137**

LOUISE 35, loves meals out, WLTM tallish, considerate mature male who is not frightened to express themselves and enjoy life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421135**

ANGELA, 42, green eyed dark haired feminine lady who enjoys walking and keeping fit, seeking lonely kind gentleman for good times and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421115**

MARGARET 39, dark hair/eyed attractive petite divorcee, new to area and looking to start a new life, WLTM child friendly male, single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421129**

ANNA, 41, new to single life seeking caring professional male for no strings fun, attention and laughter. Life is too short, lets enjoy it! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421127**

HONEST sincere affectionate nurse, 48, OHAC, WLTM child friendly male/single dad for dates, chats, laughter and more. Any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421111**

SUSANNAH, 48, curvy female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417341**

TRISH, 44, tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves TLC, WLTM male who also likes to be in a loving relationship, 39-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420601**

MICHELLE 39yr old nurse, slim, petite, blonde, blue eyes, looking to enjoy life with similar romantic, caring guy. Single dad welcome, **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420791**

DEBS lonely 40's female with no ties, GSOH, N/S, loves the simple things in life looking for similar soul mate to be happy together with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420729**

JULIE, 47, blonde brown eyes, size 12, varied interests, loves cuddling, kissing and showing affection, seeks similar energetic male friend for TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420357**

JANE, 47, voluptuous female, long hair, brown eyes, generous curves, would love to spend cosy nights in with that special male. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417985**

SAMANTHA pretty brunette, very busty 36, intelligent, independent with a real lust for life, seeks big-hearted stocky male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420599**

Single Men

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ATTRACTIVE male, 57, tall, seeks mature female, 50-75, for close adult fun, any size or status. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422409**

SIMON, kind hearted, average looking chap. 44yrs, own business, sporty, fun loving. Would love to meet a genuine lady to spoil and pamper. **Box: 4138405**

DAVE, 65, slim, white male, Birmingham area, easygoing, likes music, country pubs, animals, WLTM petite, easygoing, white female, for LTR friendship/relationship, if this is you get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422395**

SHAUN, 49, 5ft10, brown hair, brown eyes, average looks, GSOH, OHAC, honest, romantic, animal lover, likes country pubs, walks along the canal and countryside, looking for somebody who is down to earth and fun loving. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396440**

MATURE Male average build and fit WLTM a lady any status, 45-70, for discreet fun. **Text only Mailbox: 5127746**

BELIEVE that the more we have the worst off we are, age 55-70, both unattached, LTR, myself, 69. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422379**

MIKE, 64, outgoing person, enjoys life, likes sport, cricket, nice meals out, holidays, WLTM someone to share interests and quality time. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422329**

MALE, 56, tall, attractive, seeks mature female, 40-70, for mutual spanking. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422429**

MALE, 49, brown hair, brown eyes, average looks, 16 and a half stone, good sense of humour, animal lover with loads of love and security to give to the right person. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418783**

CARING man, kind, loving, animal lover, seeks female with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394149**

MALE 40s, 5ft 8ins, average looks, seeking genuine, honest, caring female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413945**

MALE 44, honest, kind, caring and genuine looking for a long-term relationship. **Text only Mailbox: 5422168**

DAVID, 58, single, looking for a female partner for friendship and company, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422179**

ADVENTUROUS 35yr old, slim, dark hair, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235**

WHITE male 58, looking for large built Indian or Black woman for no strings adult fun. **Text only Mailbox: 4223520**

MIXED Race Male, smart, educated, looking for a lady 35/64 for discreet relationship/friendship. **Text only Mailbox: 5462541**

DAVE, blue eyes, 5ft 11, looking for love. Only genuine replies. **Text only Mailbox: 5457564**

COLIN 48, kind loving, seeks cuddly large full figured kind loving lady 50 to 60 for LTR, love, kisses, cuddles, holding hands as well. **Text only Mailbox: 5439562**

ANDREW 53, widower, honest, genuine, loving, tactile hoping for love again. **Text only Mailbox: 5449242**

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ANDY, young looking 49, 5ft5, slim build, from West Bromwich, likes films, socialsing, looking for a fun lady who likes to laugh, for good times/possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421783**

47 year old guy, tall, dark hair, blue eyes, seeks female, 30-42, in the Leamington Spa/Rugby area for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422213**

ALWAYS loved it and want to experience an older man, who knows how to make love? **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422209**

ASIAN gent, 48, kind and caring, wishes to meet lady for chats, weekend outings and LTR, any age/status, ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422181**

MALE, 40s, looking for a special lady to spend fun times together and loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421747**

KISSING in depth, do what turns us on? Both unattached, yourself 35 to …, am kinky, 69, Cancer sign, WLTM for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422177**

NICE old-fashioned gent, seeks kind, caring romantic lady for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416905**

18+ and you want to be taught? Teacher glad to teach you, older, experienced guy, gentle and tender, etc, ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422203**

WIDOWED OAP 82, WLTM lady any age for genuine companionship, togetherness, holidays and more. Can travel or accommodate. **Text only Mailbox: 4625673**

GUY, 58, 5ft 11ins, looking for slim lady for fun times only meets. **Text only Mailbox: 4918364**

45 YEAR male with varied interests WLTM female, 35 to 55, for friendship and hopefully more. **Text only Mailbox: 4215562**

MALE early 60s, young outlook on life seeks similar 50s early 60s genuine female, slim with GSOH for friendship maybe more. **Text only Mailbox: 5443478**

PAUL 65yrs, Mobility probs but very caring looking for caring lady 60/70 for friendship and possible LTR. **Text only Mailbox: 5456394**

IAN, 5ft8, medium build, OHAC, late 50s, likes most things, holidays, gardening, motorbikes, WLTM similar aged lady, 50-60, with nice personality. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421345**

BUSINESSMAN, 58, adventurous and broadminded seeks a wild companion for fun and new experiences. **Text only Mailbox: 4534092**

44YRS old male, kind, genuine and honest, looking a long-term relationship. **Text only Mailbox: 5422168**

MALE, 56, slim, 6ft, considerate and caring seeks similar type female to share life with. **Text only Mailbox: 5388635**

EDDIE, honest, caring, down to earth, likes all kinds of music, going out and having a good time, looking for a Black or Polish lady, for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422019**

MALE, kinky as hell, and you're any age/looks/race/colour, this unattached guy, 69, god love it, anyway, LTR etc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422017**

YOUNG looking 58 year old male, looking for black or Polish female 23-49 years, I am single, white and looking for a long-term relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419903**

MATURE male, 60, seeks female for social meets, kisses, cuddles and intimate sexy fun, ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421933**

ATTRACTIVE, tall, dark, professional male, 50, GSOH, easygoing, looking to meet someone with a GSOH, to have a laugh and a joke and take things from there. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421903**

SINGLE male 49, caring, romantic, affectionate, many interests, WLTM slim, busty female 25-45. **Text only Mailbox: 4362337**

PHIL, 53, 5ft7, stocky athletic build, likes keep fit, swimming, cosy nights in, meals out, WLTM an honest, attractive, caring lady, with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421385**

LEE, 44, honest, genuine and very caring looking for the same in a woman. **Text only Mailbox: 5422168**

SINGLE business man , 5'11, brown eyes, well dressed, stocky build, fair skinned, successful, not bad looking, kind, generous WLTM female for LTR. **Text only Mailbox: 5441173**

JOE single 40's Paddy with GSOH, warm hearted, WLTM that single special lady to brighten up my life. **Text only Mailbox: 5440368**

TOM, 58, dark hair, 6ft, seeks older mature female. Size and looks not important. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421595**

Gay Singles

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GAY man, 58, slim, n/s, professional, likes current affairs, meals out seeks similar, 45-58, for friendship/outings and more. **Text only Mailbox: 5469583**

BI-CURIOUS c/dresser would like to meet someone for good time. **Text only Mailbox: 4863101**

GERALD, 50, very romantic, loving, sincere and caring, WLTM similar. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422345**

CAROL, bi curious lady, blonde, 5ft2, short hair, blue eyes, size 14, WLTM a similar lady between 50-60 years old. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421281**

CHRIS genuine gay female, 55, smoker, likes days out, cosy nights in, seeks local, feminine gay female, 40-50's for special relationship. Nottinghamshire. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 373131**

Just Friends

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

LUKE 60's, seeking young Asian friend, 20-30's to socialise with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414841**

MODERN young at heart lonely lady, 70's, likes trips out, holidays, seeking similar lady for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410215**

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Junior players with Penn Golf Club professional Adam Robinson

The Penn Golf Club shop

Penn Golf Club senior players with the club captain Alex Haynes

Young hopeful Dan Porter makes a putt

Club in the swing for National Golf Month

PENN Golf Club has teed off for a busy month of action with a wide series of events.

The well-appointed club that spreads out across the scenic Penn Common will have one eye of the future when it stages the Wolverhampton and Dudley Primary Schools Putting Championships throughout the summer term.

Families can also get into the swing of things on Bank Holiday Monday, May 30 with a Family Putting Challenge from 2-7pm, with golf and family meal-deal vouchers up for grabs. It is open to non-club members.

The club is also hosting two prestigious individual events, with 84 players from all over the country taking part in the Inaugural American Golf Seniors Championship. The top three pairs will qualify for the national final at The Belfry later in the year.

Progress

To conclude National Golf Month, Penn will be the host venue for the England Golf Midland Region Ladies Final Medal on Sunday.

A field of 120 players from across the Midlands will tee off in an 18-hole stroke play competition. The top 10 progress to Grand Medal Final Week in August.

The packed schedule will add to secretary Mick Woodhouse's increasing workload but he is more than happy to help the club build towards a bright future.

Woodhouse is especially keen to increase the number of youngsters at the club and has forged a partnership with numerous schools across Wolverhampton that sees him and the club's qualified PGA coaches run sessions.

"Golf clubs going out to put sessions on at schools is quite a unique thing," said Woodhouse, who will be teeing off in the Seniors Championship on Friday.

SPORTING FEATURE

By Nick Elwell

"We are trying to attract young members and any budding golfers can come along and join our academy."

"We go to quite a lot of schools across the Wolverhampton area and we are planning something similar in Dudley," Whitehouse added.

"We deliver sessions and it's really enjoyable. The Tri Golf is very popular because it caters for players of all abilities.

"We are trying to attract young members to the club and any budding golfers can come along and join our academy."

The academy offers a pathway from beginner to professional under the guidance of academy director and club professional Mark Butler and junior organiser Adam Robinson.

"Mark Butler is our club professional and he runs the Mark Butler Golf Academy at Sedgley," added Woodhouse.

"The youngsters can go there and have some sessions with Mark and then hopefully join our club.

"That's the pathway we are trying to create."

One of Penn's former juniors, James Willis, is flying the flag for the club on the professional scene.

"James Willis started as a junior here and he has just turned professional," said Woodhouse.

"James is from Sedgley and he used to play county golf for Staffordshire and got a scholarship in America. That's an example of the pathway open to young players.

"A lot of our members started off as juniors here, and some have gone on to be captain of the club."

Eight-handicapper Woodhouse was a keen cricketer with Wightwick before catching the golfing bug.

He has been a member at Penn since 1988 and, along with a hard-working committee, is determined to drive the club forward in what is a competitive business.

"We are trying to look after the club's future," he said.

"Forging links with locals schools is an important step while it's great for the club to be staging the American Golf Seniors Championship and the England Golf Midland Region Ladies Final Medal.

Stable

"Staging events such as those is testament to the quality of our course and helps raise the club's profile.

"We have a membership of around 500.

"We are doing okay. We are stable and that's not a bad position in today's market because it's very competitive.

"It's a lovely environment here and we are also planning to refurbish the club.

"We have a very good committee here, so we are moving in the right direction."

The schools and family putting competitions are sponsored and supported by The Golf Foundation so there is no charge for instruction or entry into the competitions.

They are open to school Years 4, 5 and 6 and schools can take up to 15 pupils per event.

Any schools or families wishing to enter and take part in the competitions can do so by contacting the club on 01902 341142 or e-mail secretary@penngolfclub.co.uk

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Sport

Club putts on host of events to mark National Golf Month

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Boost for the Glassboys as trio sign on

GOALKEEPER Matt Gould and attacking midfielder Chris Lait have signed new contracts at Stourbridge FC.

The duo have put pen to paper on new deals at Ambelcote until the end of the 2016/17 season, following in the footsteps of central defender Dan Scarr who is already contracted to the club for the new campaign.

Lait, who joined from Rushall Olympic in March 2014, was the Glassboys' joint second highest scorer last season with 16 goals, including stunning strikes in the FA Cup wins against Kidderminster Harriers and Dover Athletic.

Gould signed for Stourbridge on loan from Scottish Championship side Livingston in January and played 21 times, proving to be a solid presence behind the back four as Stourbridge pushed towards the play-offs.

Meanwhile, Stourbridge have also have confirmed their season ticket and matchday admission prices for 2016/17. These are as follows: Adults £10, senior citizens and 17-18-year-olds £7, 11-16-year-olds £3, accompanied under-11s free.

An adult's full season ticket costs £170, £100 for senior citizens and 17-18-year-olds and £50 for 11-to-16s.

All children under 11 will be admitted free as long as they are accompanied by a paying adult or season ticket holder.

Flexi-season tickets will also be available. These comprise 12 numbered vouchers that can be used at any home league game. The vouchers are not restricted to the season ticket holder and can be used to allow entry for any person to any home league game.

An application form can be downloaded from the club's website www.stourbridgefc.com. Season tickets can be applied for by post, and will be on sale at the club from Thursday, June 2 from 7pm onwards.

Heathens silence the Storm and go joint top of table

CRADLEY battled their way back to joint top of the National League with a 52-38 win over Coventry Storm at Monmore Green on Monday night.

Heathens head to Eastbourne in the league on Saturday and then to Buxton in the cup on Sunday. The next home meeting is the second leg of their cup tie with the Hitmen on Monday June 13.

Cradley 52: Max Clegg 16+2, Ashley Morris 15, Luke Chessell 9, James Purchase 7, Ben Basford 4+2, Bradley Andrews 1, Jack Kingston R/R.

Coventry 38: Dan Greenwood 11, Martin Knuckey 9+2, Conor Dwyer 7+4, Ryan Terry-Daley 7, Callum Walker 4+2, Kyle Roberts 0, Liam Carr R/R.

Cradley chiefs say their showpiece individual event of the year, the Dudley Stroke Association Golden Hammer on August 9, has all the makings of being the best of the modern era.

Adam Ellis will defend his title with Dan Bewley also included. Tom Perry, Paul Starke, Steve Worrall, Nathan Greaves and Matt Williamson will all return to Monmore.

Admission is £15 adults, £12 concessions, free for children and £5 season ticket holders with their pass.

Fighters claim European medal haul

Pride gym kickboxing medallists

TEENAGE fighter Reuben Charlesworth boxed to his fourth consecutive win – and then followed up with a kickboxing gold.

The 18-year-old, from Lower Gornal is unbeaten as a boxer, and maintained his record with a second round stoppage against Jake Hudson from the Fight Den in Birmingham.

Charlesworth, who trains at Pride boxing gym in Halesowen, under the guidance of his father Jason, gained further success at the ICO Kickboxing European championships in Rome.

Seven participants came back with medals, with golds going to Charlesworth in the 18-years category, Liberty Smith in the 16s, Finlay Wright in the 15-years section, Tyler Cox for 12-year-olds and Luke Ashby for the aged nines. Connor Preece in the 17s and Kiyra Charlesworth, 12-years, returned with silvers.

Head coach Jason Charlesworth, a 6th Dan said: "All of our fighters did our school and country proud. There was plenty of talent on show."

These, and other fighters from the Halesowen martial arts centre, will travel to France for the world championships in October.

Boxing

TITANS SOCK IT TO OPPOSITION

STOURBRIDGE Titans baseball team returned to winning ways in style with victory in both games of a double header with Leicester Blue Sox.

Stung by a pair of defeats at the hands of the Nottingham Rebels in their previous outing, Titans picked up a comfortable 15-5 success in the opening game before emerging 9-8 winners in a tense second clash.

Jason Horner

Coach Jeff Nash sent Stu Walton to the pitcher's mound in the first encounter. and he kept the visitors at bay in the top of the first innings before the Titans batters got the scoring started with two runs.

Leicester answered back with two of their own in the second. But the Titans broke the game open with six runs in the third innings and five more in the fourth. Catcher Paul Insley scored in each innings while Shaun Healy and Aaron Willetts claimed two hits apiece. There was late drama as Blue Sox batter Giedrius Janulevicius clouted a two-run home run to centerfield.

The rally was stalled, though, as the Titans tacked on the two runs they needed to complete the victory.

The second game saw Trent Nash get the nod to pitch for the Titans and he began by striking out two of the first three Leicester hitters.

Titans looked to be cruising as they led 5-1 but the Blue Sox hit back and capitalised on some lapses in concentration from the Titans fielders to go 8-5 up.

The home side answered back with three runs of their own, sparked by Luke Borton's double.

With the scores level at the top of the fifth innings, Jason Horner took over the pitching duties for the Titans and struck out four, retiring all nine batters he faced in the remaining three innings.

The Blue Sox restricted Titans to just one hit in the next two innings, but it was left to Horner to deliver the hammer blow.

Bell sounds on Aston title bid

Craig Cunningham, left, strikes a blow against Dudley's Ryan Aston

DUDLEY'S Ryan Aston came off second best as he was knocked out by defending Midlands middleweight champion Craig Cunningham just seconds before the end of the sixth round.

The 10-round contest was the headline bout at promoter Paul 'PJ' Rowson's 'Resurgence' show at Dudley Town Hall on Saturday night.

Hometown hero Aston was attempting to claim a bonafide belt for the fourth time, in this third Midlands title shot.

Brummie Cunningham, aged 28, who lives in Oldbury, was putting the strap up-for-grabs for the first time and now plans to drop down to light middle. A quarter of well-matched four round bouts supported the main event.

Rowley Regis' Tyler Denny drew for the second successive bout in a tough super middleweight bout against Devon-born Spaniard Cristian Hoskin-Gomez.

Netherton's Les Byfield had his hand raised by a 40-38 victory over Swindon's Joe Beeden, his fifth straight victory.

Boxing's only professional poet, Matt Windle, opened the show with his first points shut out in his third professional contest. The unbeaten Brummie overcame the game Gary Reeve by a 40-35 margin.

The last under-card bout saw Lichfield's Brad Foster outpoint Jordan Turner, of Nottinghamshire, at flyweight.

Doherty the star turn at presentation

STOURBRIDGE A, winners for the last two seasons, progressed to the final of the Stourbridge Snooker League Inter-League against a strong Kidderminster side. They now face Evesham.

Leigh Bennett & Sam Porter of Kingswinford Cons beat Gavin Sloan & Carl Southwick of West Midlands Police over two frames in the pairs handicap final at Stourbridge Old Edwardian Club.

League president Mike Pritchard presented Bennett and Porter with the Geoff Williams Memorial Shield, now in its 26th year.

In the final of the Worcester Inter-League over 40s at Stourbridge Old Edwardian Club, Stourbridge beat Evesham by 644 to 450. All ten frames were played on the same evening, and Stourbridge, who had won the title in six consecutive years until they lost to Evesham in 2015, exacted revenge.

The late John Smith, who died suddenly last July, had been secretary and the driving force behind these inter-league competitions, and would have been delighted that the events continued, with thanks to the initiative of Dean Powell.

There was a good attendance for the presentation of League and Knock-Out trophies and prizes, with the added bonus of 1997 world champion Ken Doherty on hand to make the awards. He was also at the club playing an exhibition later that evening.

Doherty took on a number of those who had won prizes and also treated the audience to stories about many of the ex-players from years gone by and those who now share the commentary box with him.

The Irishman, the only world amateur champion to have become the world professional champion, posed for photographs with all proceeds to go to local charities.

Duo in Lisbon to represent Britain

BLACK Country Triathletes' junior section came home with a number of medals from a duathlon at Stourport Sports Club. More than 120 children, aged from seven to 16, took part.

Meanwhile, the club's, Keith Bate won bronze in his age group at the British Sprint Triathlon Championships at Emberton Country Park, while Steve Blakemore finished as 1st Vet in the Phoenix Sprint Triathlon at Ragley Hall, Warwickshire.

They will both represent Great Britain in the age group standard and sprint distance races at the European Duathlon Championships in Lisbon this weekend.

★★★

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